

NFPA No.

291

**RECOMMENDATIONS FOR
UNIFORM
MARKING OF
FIRE HYDRANTS
1974**



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NATIONAL FIRE PROTECTION ASSOCIATION

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Marking of Hydrants

NFPA No. 291 — 1974

The NFPA Committee on Public Water Supplies for Private Fire Protection presented the idea of indicating the relative available fire service water supply from hydrants in its 1934 report. The committee felt then and feels now that such an indication is of substantial value to Water and Fire Departments. The following recommendations were initially adopted in 1935. The Committee agreed that tests of individual hydrants did not give as complete and satisfactory results as group testing but expressed the opinion that tests of individual hydrants did have sufficient value to make the following recommendations worthy of adoption.

The Committee submitted the 1935 text with minor editorial changes to the May, 1974 Annual Meeting for reconfirmation. The reconfirmation was accepted at that Meeting.

Committee on Public Water Supplies for Private Fire Protection

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This list represents the membership at the time the Committee was balloted on the text of this edition. Since that time, changes in the membership may have occurred.

Recommendations for Uniform Marking of Fire Hydrants

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- (1) That hydrants be classified as follows: —
 - Class A — Flow capacity of 1000 gpm or greater.
 - Class B — Flow capacity of 500-1000 gpm.
 - Class C — Flow capacity of less than 500 gpm.

Capacities to be rated by flow measurement tests of individual hydrants at a period of ordinary demand. Rating to be based on 20 lb. per sq. in. residual pressure when initial pressures are over 40 lbs. per sq. in. When initial pressures are less than 40 lbs. per sq. in. residual pressures shall be at least half of the initial.

- (2) That the following capacity-indicating color scheme be adopted as providing simplicity and consistency with colors used in signal work for safety, danger and intermediate condition:

PUBLIC HYDRANTS

All barrels to be chrome yellow except in cases where another color has already been adopted.

Class A — Tops and nozzle caps — Green.

Class B — Tops and nozzle caps — Orange.

Class C — Tops and nozzle caps — Red.

PRIVATE HYDRANTS

Within private enclosures, the marking to be at the discretion of the owners.

When in public streets, they should be painted entirely red to distinguish them from public hydrants.

- (3) That all location markers for flush hydrants should carry the same color background as stated above for class indication, with such data stenciled or painted thereon as may be deemed necessary.

- (4) That the colors shall be understood to signify only the individual capacity of the hydrant as tested and not group hydrant effect.



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- 4A Fire Dept. Organization '69
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- 7 Controlling Fire Emerg. '74
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