



Fire Department

Maintaining Clearance Around Fire Hydrants and Fire Protection Control Valves

"How to keep you and your building safe by enabling a quick-fire response"

The following information is being provided to assist homeowners and businesses with questions regarding the clearance required around fire hydrants and fire protection systems.

The Fire Department and property owners must work together to maintain access to the fire hydrants and fire protection system control valves. During emergencies firefighters need to quickly gain access to fire hydrants and fire protection systems to save lives and property. This includes no parking in designated fire lanes or within 10 feet of fire hydrants. Minnesota Statutes 169.34 states that parking is not allowed within 10 feet of a fire hydrant.

Property owners are encouraged to assist firefighters who may need to locate and gain access to fire hydrants and fire protection systems by:

1. Clearing plant growth around hydrants and fire protection control valves in summer.
2. Clearing snow within 3 feet around hydrants and fire protection control valves in winter.
3. Post your address or building identification so it can easily be seen by first responders during an emergency

Property owners should not place landscaping, mailboxes, signs or other objects that will visually obstruct or interfere with the operation of fire hydrants and or the fire protection system.

2020 Minnesota State Fire Code

507.5.4 Obstruction.

Unobstructed access to fire hydrants shall be maintained at all times. The fire department shall not be deterred or hindered from gaining immediate access to fire protection equipment or fire hydrants.

507.5.5 Clear space around hydrants.

A 3-foot (914 mm) clear space shall be maintained around the circumference of fire hydrants, except as otherwise required or approved.

508.5.6 Physical Protection

Where fire hydrants are subject to impact by a motor vehicle, guard posts or other approved means shall comply with Section 312.

If you have any questions about these requirements or any other fire safety issues, please contact the Owatonna Fire Department at 444-2454