

NEWS RELEASE

Media Contact:

Steve Zaccard, Fire Department
651-228-6201
Jodi Wallin, SPRWS
651-266-6308

Residents asked to help clear access to fire hydrants

SAINT PAUL. January 31, 2014. As the snow continues to accumulate in Saint Paul, the Saint Paul fire department and Saint Paul Regional Water Services are asking for the public's help in digging out the city's more than 7,000 fire hydrants.

"While we send crews to dig out the fire hydrants, there is no way for us to get to them all," said Steve Zaccard, fire department spokesperson. "We need the public's help. Help us help you."

"In an emergency, access to a fire hydrant can save lives and property," Zaccard said.

"We have provided the fire department with updated maps of all hydrant locations in the city," said Steve Schneider, general manager of the water utility. "We need everyone's help in making the hydrants accessible and visible," concluded Schneider.

Difficulty finding or clearing a fire hydrant can pose serious problems for fire fighters in the midst of an emergency. Trucks carry 500 gallons of water, but they can pump more than 1,000 gallons a minute per truck. In larger fires, several trucks pumping this volume of water is required, and fire hydrants are needed to deliver that life-saving water.

When shoveling your sidewalk, take the extra time to dig out at least a foot around the hydrant down to the ground and out to the street. This will allow fire fighters access to the hydrant.

Try to clear enough snow to make the hydrant visible. With this week's snowfall and subsequent plowing, hydrants could be buried under hard, compacted snow.

"Even assistance in locating the hydrants under the snow right now is appreciated," said Zaccard. "As a result of all their hard work raising funds, the Saint Paul Fire Foundation has purchased and begun to install hydrant flags on all of the more than 7,000 hydrants in the city of Saint Paul."

If you know where a fire hydrant is near your home, your neighbor's home, or at work, offer to adopt that hydrant and keep it cleared of snow. It could save a life, your home, or your place of work.

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Media outlets: An adopt-a-hydrant Public Service Announcement is available.

Please link to <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LXiVHRQ7HSs>

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0khXkyqZ658>

Saint Paul Regional Water Services

1900 Rice Street , St. Paul, MN 55113-6810
Tel. 651-266-6350 Δ Fax 651-266-1657 Δ TTY 651-266-6299