FRANKLIN COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF SANITARY ENGINEERING
WATER MAIN UNIDIRECTIONAL FLUSHING NOTICE

FOR QUESTIONS OR CONCERNS CALL 614-525-3940

The Franklin County Sanitary Engineer is implementing a more comprehensive water distribution system flushing program in its Sanitary District 4 service area, called Unidirectional Flushing (UDF). As a precursor to this program, the Sanitary Engineer first had to evaluate, replace, add and repair hydrants and valves in the system, which was mainly constructed in the 1950s. Many residents were aware of this project effort which will be complete in May 2016. The next step in improving water quality and system life is to perform the UDF.

I've Seen Open Hydrants Before by the Sanitary Engineer or Fire Department. How Is UDF Different?

A UDF program involves closing valves in a specific sequence to create water movement in one direction while opening specific fire hydrants at the end of that sequence. The UDF technique allows higher water flow velocities by isolating certain sections of water mains. The higher water velocity allows for better scouring of the pipes and *will use 40% less water* in the flushing process than conventional flushing methods, which the Sanitary Engineer and Fire Department has historically utilized. Additionally, the fire department is checking hydrant operation and flow thus their intent is slightly different than water system cleaning. Flushing pipes at higher velocities will dislodge and remove mineral deposits and sediment that accumulate in the water mains.

Flushing in Your Neighborhood

UDF should have minimal impacts to customers. If you see hydrant flushing crews working in the area, please drive carefully and treat them like any other road construction crew. When crews are planning to be in a particular area, be on the lookout for door hangers and message boards stating the day of planned flushing. These should be posted at least 24 hours ahead of the activity. During the activity, there should be signage and cones next to the flushing hydrant. Hydrant flows will be directed to a storm drain, if possible.

Flushing will usually occur Monday through Friday, between 8 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. A more defined schedule will be posted on our website as the project nears.

During Flushing

Residents in the immediate vicinity of flushing may notice temporarily discolored water and lower than normal water pressure. The discoloration does not pose a health risk. However, avoid using tap water or running the washing machine or dishwasher until flushing is complete. Although this activity may appear wasteful of water, this activity is a good operational practice and is required by the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency. You are not charged in any way for the water usage from the hydrants during flushing. There are no chemicals used in flushing. This is the same water as currently running through your taps. Release of lead is not of issue.

After Flushing

If you experience some discoloration in your water from nearby flushing, run the cold water at one tap for 15 minutes to see if it clears. Remove aerators from sink faucets or use a bathtub faucet. If it does not clear wait a while and try again. When the water runs clear, flush any taps where discolored water was present.

Do not turn on your hot water. If you experience discolored water from your hot water tap for several hours, then it is recommended to drain and flush your water heater tank.

Do not do laundry. If discoloration occurs during washing, do not dry clothes. Rewash clothes to avoid staining.

Anticipated UDF Schedule

Mobilization of a contractor, Envirolink of Ohio, LLC, is expected the third week of May. The crews will work in order of the grid numbers below in reference to the map with some overlap as grid sections are crossed due to the nature of the system layout.

The work is expected to take 4 – 5 weeks. As this is a brand new plan the Sanitary Engineer is enacting, adjustments may be necessary during its progression which require a longer time period to complete, possibly up to 8 weeks.

Grid Sections	Timeframe
3, 6, 9, 12	May 25th – June 2nd
2, 5	June 3rd – June 7th
1,4	June 7th – June 10th
7, 8, 9, 10	June 11th – June 22nd

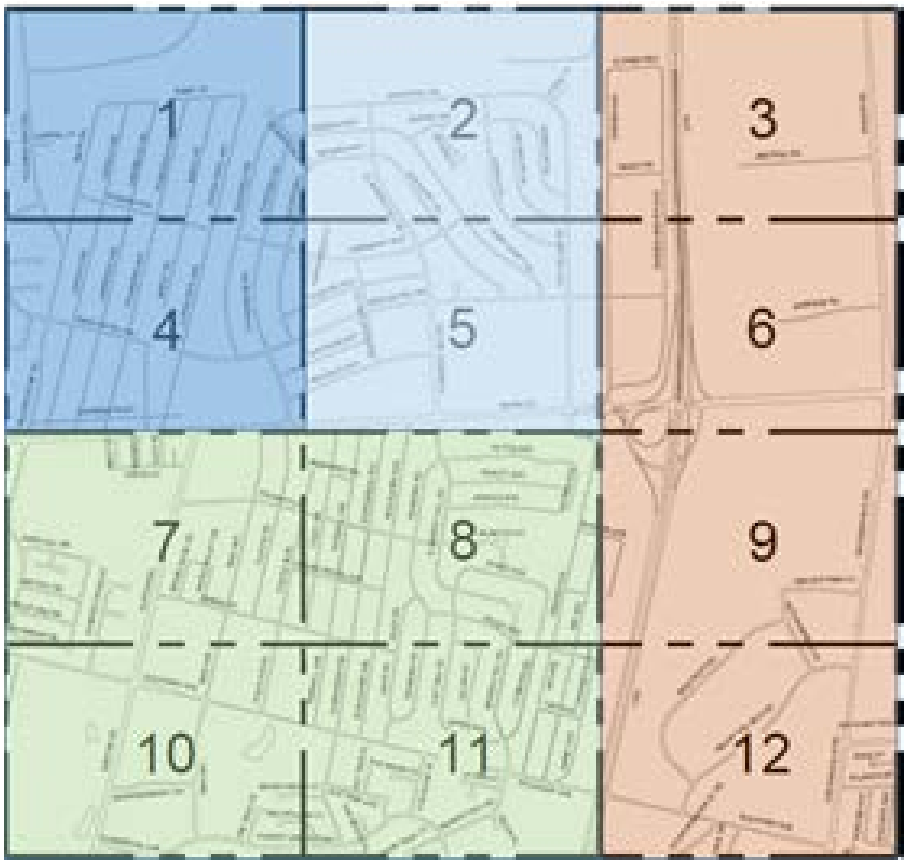

Figure 1 UDF Program Grid Map Schedule