



CONTACTS:
Michael Brekke, Water Distribution Supervisor
563-589-4303, mbrekke@cityofdubuque.org

NEWS RELEASE

August 3, 2011 – FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Dubuque Fire Hydrant Painting Program Underway

DUBUQUE, Iowa – Clearly visible and well-maintained fire/water hydrants are an important public infrastructure component and public safety asset. The City of Dubuque has initiated a program beginning to repaint the City’s nearly 2,850 fire hydrants in Dubuque’s 318+ mile-long water distribution system.

The four-phased project is expected to cost a total of approximately \$573,000 and will be conducted over the next four years, with up to two private contractor crews repainting 700+ fire hydrants annually. The first phase has begun and will focus on the downtown area north of 12th Street and also the North End area. The project will not require service disruptions to water customers.

Many of Dubuque’s older fire hydrants have deteriorated in appearance after years of exposure to the elements including the salt used on the streets during the winter. This program will address those fire hydrants and creates a budget item for on-going maintenance in the future.

Fire hydrants are first and foremost a public safety device and a consistent paint scheme aids fire department and water department personnel in quickly locating them when needed. The fire hydrants that are part of the project will first be pre-inspected by water department personnel to insure they are fully operational. Next, the contractor will power-wash the fire hydrants with a simple green cleaning solution and then they will be fully primed and allowed to cure. Finally, the fire hydrants will be painted with industrial-quality “safety red”

paint on the nozzle section (body) of the fire hydrant and industrial-quality light gray paint on the dome (bonnet) and the caps. This method will allow for a long-lasting finish and insures proper operation of the fire hydrant. The contractor also is certified in lead paint removal and is applying special attention to any fire hydrant that may contain lead paint as a result of its age.

This program will involve public fire hydrants only. Fire hydrants located in private subdivisions and developments within the city limits are not maintained by the City of Dubuque and are the responsibility of the property owner.

For more information, contact Water Distribution Supervisor Michael Brekke at 563-589-4303 or mbrekke@cityofdubuque.org.

#