



Thursday, October 9, 2025

## **Hydrant Work on Story Street Part of Annual Replacement Program**

The Public Works Department's replacement of fire hydrants on Story Street this week is part of an annual program to keep the system in top condition.

Director Waylon Andrews said the department's budget includes between \$17,000 and \$20,000 each year for hydrant replacements that average around \$3,500 each, adding, "We have a targeted goal of between three and five fire hydrant replacements a year, and we're focusing on the section of Story Street between Second Street and Prairie Avenue."

Andrews said work has been completed on two of the five hydrants on that stretch of Story Street. Workers are taking extra steps to prevent the need to shut down water service to any essential service provider in the area or necessitate a boil advisory on these facilities because of their essential services to the community.

Replacing a hydrant can take as little as three hours when everything goes smoothly, Andrews said. When things don't go so well, he added, "The sky's the limit."

There are slightly more than 900 hydrants throughout the city, with some that were patented in 1894 still in excellent working order. The replacement schedule is determined by evaluations conducted during the regular cycle of hydrant flushes, which can reveal where a hydrant is leaking or just not operating as it should. "We flush hydrants multiple times a year. We try to do at least two to three cycles around town each year," Andrews said.

When a hydrant's operational valve has gone bad and needs to be replaced, Andrews said the process may require a section of water main be shut down. Any work on a watermain may result in discolored water in nearby tap water for a short time. During those occasions, the Public Works Department follows safety guidelines established by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the Iowa Department of Natural Resources, which includes water sampling and notifying the public of the need to boil water until further notice if necessary.

####