

Dear Lake Como Residents,

We apologize for the inconvenience and disruption in water service this week. The fire hydrants are flushed twice per year to scrub the inside of the water mains, remove all sediment, and maintain good water quality for the residents. This requirement is mandated by the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection. The borough uses the unidirectional flushing method, which is the fastest and most efficient way to clean the distribution system by closing and opening the system valves to keep the water flowing in one direction minimizing inconvenience to the residents. This process also lets us exercise the system valves and make sure all the fire hydrants are in good working order in case they are needed for fire suppression.

The reason we flush during the day as opposed to a nighttime operation is if any problems arise we can call a contractor for an emergency repair. We do not have the in house resources to complete these large repairs ourselves. The nighttime rate for a contractor and the response time is greatly increased as it becomes an overtime job where they must call in an emergency repair crew. Additionally, the limited number of staff in our public works department prevents the borough from sparing members to work through the night. In other towns where hydrant flushing occurs at night, they are much larger communities. They have anywhere from four to six employees out per night and they have multiple water feeds from multiple treatment plants. That process can take four to seven weeks.

The most effective way to flush hydrants is to complete the process as fast as possible so the water that has been disturbed does not have time to recirculate back into the cleaned pipes. If we were to flush fewer hours per day, that would increase the total days we flushed and add to the inconvenience and disruption in the system.

Again we apologize for the disruption this has caused, especially in this time of COVID when more people are working from home.

If you have further questions please contact borough hall.

Sincerely,

Joe Langel  
Licensed Water & Wastewater System Operator  
Borough of Lake Como

Kevin Higgins  
Mayor  
Borough of Lake Como