

Fire Safety – Fire Hydrant Coverage in Highland Hills

The installation of additional fire hydrants would not change or improve the way our Fire District would attack a residential house fire in Highland Hills. If a house fire were reported, the typical fire response would include 2 to 3 fire engines, each carrying 750 gallons of water. The first arriving unit would use its own water supply for a fast attack, followed by the second engine company bringing a supply line from the nearest hydrant. Since a typical house fire is extinguished with far less water than is carried on one truck (even if it were fully engulfed), this fast-attack method is preferred for saving lives and property. Additionally, our fire engines are equipped with the modern CAFS system (compressed-air foam system), which includes a wetting agent which dramatically improves the water's ability to penetrate the fire.

It is also noteworthy to say that a new (additional) fire hydrant would not lower the fire insurance rates for residents in Highland Hills. Due to the efforts by our Fire District in the last few years (addition of a new fire station, addition of more firefighters, new apparatus, training, etc.), the National Bureau of Insurance Ratings has recently (in 2009) awarded our Fire District a new rating of 6 (from 8a). This significantly reduces the cost of a homeowner's insurance rates up to several hundred dollars, with most companies. You may wish to check with your individual company to see if they are aware of this new rating.

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