

Fire Safety -- Fire Hydrant Clearances

This article discusses required hydrant clearances for property owners that have fire hydrants on their property.

Fire hydrant clearances requirements have been adopted by Clallam County, are enforceable, and, for your protection and the protection of your neighbors and community, should be complied with voluntarily. The upgrades to our hydrants made in 2006 so that our firefighters can connect to them and suppress a fire more expeditiously would be for naught if these firefighters trip over foot hazards (rocks, low growing vegetation, plant guide wires, etc.) or impale themselves on metal stakes, tree stakes or address markers placed on or around the hydrants.

International Fire codes, Uniform Fire codes, and National Fire Protection Agency all have code requirements to insure safety of public and firefighters. International Fire code states: *"Obstructions. Posts, fences, vehicles, growth, trash, storage, and other materials or objects shall not be placed or kept near fire hydrants, fire department inlet connections or fire control valves in a manner that would prevent such equipment or fire hydrants from being immediately discernable. The fire department shall not be deterred or hindered from gaining immediate access to fire protection equipment or fire hydrants."* Also: *"Clear space around hydrants. A 3-foot ... clear space shall be maintained around the circumference of fire hydrants except as otherwise required or approved."*

If you have a fire hydrant on your property, please comply with the requirements of the codes: clear the area around it and make it visible from the street for the benefit of yourself, your neighbors, your community, and your firefighters. Inspections for compliance of the hydrants in Highland Hills are made periodically, and violations must be remedied by homeowners on whose properties the hydrants sit.

However unappealing a fire hydrant may appear, it can be beautiful when it is providing the water necessary to save your home from destruction.

Article credit: Doug Heydon