Nevada Irrigation District

Prepared: Hydrants Provide Water for Fighting Fires

If fire breaks out in a neighborhood, it is imperative that water is available to extinguish it at a moment's notice. To that end, NID has installed 2,551 hydrants throughout the district … and counting. As pipeline is upgraded or newly installed, hydrants are part of the project. Also, NID will add hydrants upon fire districts' requests.

Early in the design phase of a pipeline project, NID works with the local fire department for input on hydrant placement that can best support their firefighting efforts.

The standard rule is hydrant placement every 1,000 feet of pipeline. "But when you start to look at roads that don't have fire protection down them, at the request of fire departments we will put a hydrant at the end of the road so they can lay down a line for fire protection," said NID's Engineering Chief Gary King.

NID has paid for and installed 202 new hydrants during the past five years. For example, in Penn Valley, our crews replaced 10,000 linear feet (nearly 2 miles) of pipeline with larger-diameter pipe and new, modern hydrants that will provide a boost in water available to fight fires in the area. This year, 10 new fire hydrants will be installed as part of a pipeline replacement project on Boreham Lane and Gayle Lane in Nevada City.

Interestingly, the water to hydrants is supplied by our treated water system; it's not the raw water flowing in our ditches for irrigation.

PG&E has announced a program called Public Safety Power Shutoff (PSPS) when extreme fire risk conditions exist and are declared, such as a Red Flag Warning. During a PSPS, PG&E may shut off power for an extended period.

Rest assured, our water system serving the hydrants has generators and redundancy built in to allow for such outages while still being able to deliver water. We intend to keep the water flowing in the event of wildfires and have committed the resources needed to do it.

Is there an NID fire hydrant near you?

Click HERE to see NID's Hydrant Locator Map