

Importance of Fire Hydrant Visibility and Accessibility

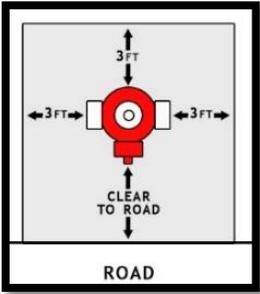
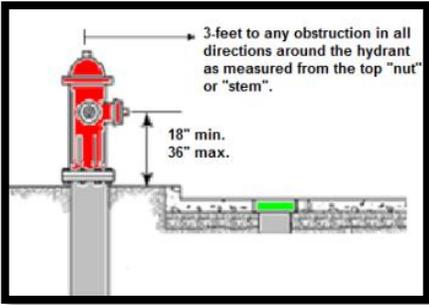
In order to provide efficient fire protection for you and your neighbors, the Castle Rock Fire and Rescue Department rely on easily found and accessible fire hydrants for water supply.

- Quickly finding and accessing these hydrants in the event of an emergency is critical and can mean the difference between a little or a lot of property loss.

When fire department personnel respond to put out a structure fire, the fire engines carry enough water to make an initial fire attack, but they soon need a continuous water supply from a fire hydrant to extinguish some fires. This is why finding and connecting to a fire hydrant is one of the firefighters' first priorities. GPS mapping technology on fire engines has improved firefighters' ability to locate hydrant locations more quickly, but getting to them when they are shrouded in shrubs, blocked by cars or covered in snow can be a challenge.

- In the event of a fire in your neighborhood, firefighters may spend valuable time searching for and accessing a hydrant when they could be doing other important tasks.
- This is where the public can help. Your assistance is needed in keeping the hydrants clear of obstacles.

Fire Hydrants located on your property must be visible and accessible at all times.

<p>1. Keep at least 3 feet of clearance around the circumference of fire hydrants at all times.</p>	<p>2. The center of the largest opening must be at least 18 inches above the ground.</p>
	
<p>3. Keep it clear year round! Keep vehicles, grass, bushes, fencing, tree branches, weeds, snow and other obstacles away from the hydrant to allow for rapid location and easy access for firefighters.</p>	

- 2018 International Fire Code 507.5.4 states: "Unobstructed access to fire hydrants shall be maintained at all times. The fire department shall not be deterred or hindered from gaining immediate access to fire protection equipment or fire hydrants."
- 2018 International Fire Code 507.5.5 states: "A 3-foot clear space shall be maintained around the circumference of fire hydrants except as otherwise required or approved."
- Under the Town of Castle Rock adoption of the model traffic Code, parking can be no closer than 15 feet from a fire hydrant, or the vehicle operator or owner could be issued a municipal summons, Ordinance Section 1204 (2)(b), which carries a potential \$100.00 fine.

We encourage the public to find the fire hydrant near them and make sure there is clear access for the fire department.

*If you notice that a fire hydrant is blocked, has been damaged, is leaking water or if the center of the largest opening is not at least 18 inches above the ground please notify Castle Rock Water by calling 720-733-6000 or email water@crgov.com, as soon as possible.