

City of Durham
FIRE FLOW TESTS
Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

1. How is a fire flow test performed?

- A fire flow test is performed on a pair of hydrants – one hydrant acts as the residual hydrant and one acts as the flow hydrant.
- The applicant must specify in the fire flow request which hydrant will be used as the pressure hydrant and which hydrant will be used as the flow hydrant.
- Fire flow tests cannot be performed on water lines greater than 16" in diameter.

2. Who needs to apply for flow test information?

- Engineering firms that design water systems for new development.
- Firms that design fire protection systems for buildings.
- Firms that design landscape irrigation systems.
- Individual property owners with high or low pressure problems.

3. When and how should I apply for a flow test?

- Four weeks before you need the results.
- Fill out the application at <http://codinex.durhamnc.gov/sites/PublicWorks/SitePages/FireFlow.aspx>
- An acknowledgment letter with a case number will be sent to you within two business days, otherwise please call us at (919) 560-4326 – use extension 30264 or 30213.
- A separate request should be submitted for each location.

4. Can we run the test ourselves?

- Public tests: Public tests are tests which are conducted using hydrants located within the public right-of-way. Only City personnel may conduct public tests.
- Private tests: Private tests are conducted using hydrants that are on private property. The property owner or authorized agent is responsible for conducting the test. However, a Fire Flow Application is required so that the City can arrange to witness the test. Any private fire flow tests conducted without being witnessed by the City is in violation of the City Code.

5. How much will it cost me?

- Copies of existing fire flow tests (conducted within the past 3 years and within 2000 linear feet of the project site) are provided, for free, by the City of Durham.
- Private fire flow tests will be witnessed, free of charge, by the City of Durham.
- If a new public fire flow test is requested, the STANDARD FEE is \$850.00.
- If multiple hydrant numbers, direction of flow, or locations are requested, a STANDARD FEE will apply to each test.

6. How can I pay for a fire flow test?

- Use the online PAY NOW option located at:
<http://codinetx.durhamnc.gov/sites/PublicWorks/SitePages/FireFlow.aspx>
Note: There is a convenience fee for online processing of payments.
- Come to the Ground floor or City Hall (Development Services Center) and pay the STANDARD FEE by check, cash, or credit card.
NOTE: WE WILL NO LONGER BE ACCEPTING PAYMENT FOR FIRE FLOW TESTS IN PUBLIC WORKS.
- Send a check to:
CITY OF DURHAM
Development Services Center
101 City Hall Plaza, Ground Floor
Durham, NC 27701
Make your check payable to the "City of Durham" and include the fire flow case number in the memo section.

7. How long does it take to get the results of the flow test?

- If we have data from a recent test that was performed in the vicinity of your site, we will provide you with those results within 5 business days.
- If a new private test is requested, it will be scheduled after a hold harmless letter has been received by the Public Works Department. The test will be witnessed and you will receive results within two weeks.
- If a new public test is required, it will be scheduled after the STANDARD FEE has been received by the Public Works Department. The test will be conducted and you will receive results within four weeks after payment, weather permitting.

8. Will the City of Durham repeat a fire flow test?

- We will rerun a test, free of charge, if there is an internal issue within the City on the day your fire flow test was performed (including but not limited to closed valves and equipment failures).
- The STANDARD FEE will be assessed for any other repeat fire flow requests.

9. How will I be notified of these results?

- An acknowledgment letter will be sent with a case number for the request – any payments sent to the city will need the case number.
- Results will be sent via email within 5 business days of a fire flow request or within 5 business days of a new fire flow test being performed.

If you have additional questions, please contact the City of Durham Engineering Department by phone at (919) 560-4326 or email at FireFlow@durhamNC.gov