

Guidelines for Fire Departments Procedures for Disinfection of Pumper Trucks & Equipment

Tucson Water has developed these Guidelines for the disinfection of fire department pumper trucks and other equipment in the event that vehicles/equipment come into contact with non-potable water. The intent of these Guidelines is to assist fire departments in maintaining the sanitary condition of their equipment.

Guidelines

All fire department pumper trucks, hoses, and other equipment that have been used to transport or convey non-potable water from a known non-potable source, including reclaimed water or a surface water body, or that have come into contact with such water must be disinfected prior to connecting to any Tucson Water potable water hydrant, potable water service, or fire department connection (FDC).

Disinfection of all fire department pumper trucks, hoses, and other equipment that have been used to transport or convey non-potable water should be done as soon as reasonably possible after exposure to non-potable water.

If circumstances prevent the disinfection of pumper trucks and equipment prior to use, connection to Tucson Water hydrants for direct application to a fire is allowed if a water meter and approved backflow protection assembly are used.

Tucson Water reserves the right to request the owner/operator of any vehicle or equipment to provide documentation of disinfection at any time if the vehicle or equipment is suspected to have been used to transport or convey water from a non-potable source.

The following disinfection guidelines are provided:

1. Fire department pumper trucks, hoses and other equipment shall be chlorinated with fifty (50) ppm chlorine for twenty-four (24) hours.
2. After twenty-four (24) hours, the affected vehicles/equipment shall be drained and flushed with potable water, and a standard bacteriological test (Total Coliform) shall be performed. The results of the test must demonstrate absence of coliform bacteria.
3. The discharge of water used in the disinfection process must be in compliance with all Arizona Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ) regulations which may include de-chlorination and discharge to an approved location.
4. Records of all disinfection shall be maintained. The records shall include: date of disinfection, reason for disinfection (e.g. type of source water previously used), results of bacteriological tests, place of discharge of disinfection and flushing water, and name of person who supervised the disinfection.

* Disinfection in accordance with these guidelines does not constitute approval for the use of vehicles/equipment for the conveyance and transport of potable water for human consumption.*