

Utility Notice

February 2010



Can you find the fire hydrant?

The Sun Peaks Fire Department and Sun Peaks Utilities wants to stress the importance of clearing away the snow from near and around the fire hydrant that is on your property or near your house or business.

In the winter, the Utility does its best to clear snow away from around hydrants. The Utility also requests that neither you or your snow clearing contractor fill in this cleared area with snow moved from your driveway or other areas on your property.



At any given time in the winter, Sun Peaks can receive over 25 centimeters (10 inches) of snow within a 24 hour period. This snow along with the plow trucks can partially or completely covered hydrants at Sun Peaks. This can make it very hard to locate and use these hydrants in an emergency. It only takes 75 centimeters (30 inches) to completely cover most fire hydrants if not attended to.

For every minute it would take firefighters to dig a hydrant out and attach a hose, a fire can double in size. ***"If a house happened to be on fire and this was the hydrant we needed to use, you can see the delay it's going to take for us to get in service and put water on the fire,"*** said Fire Captain Bill Stoner.

The Fire Department has also noticed that fire hydrants have been the victims of vandalism. Not only can fire hydrant vandalism slow fire department actions, but it is also a violation under the Water Tariff to tamper with fire protection equipment. Charges for tampering with fire protection equipment will be charged at the Utility's cost to perform restoration work including administration costs.

Please note you may not park within 5 meters of a fire hydrant under the Ministry of Highways, Motor Vehicle Act, Section 189 1) (d) ***which states that no vehicle may stop within 5 m of a fire hydrant measured from a point in the curb or edge of the roadway that is closest to the fire hydrant.***

Remember by taking the time to clear the snow from around your fire hydrant you may be saving the life and property of one of your neighbours or even your own. If you have any questions about a fire hydrant located on your property, please contact the Utility at 250-578-5490 (press 1) or Sun Peaks Fire and Rescue at 250-578-8985.

Sincerely,

Sun Peaks Utilities Co., Ltd.

CC: Sun Peaks Fire & Rescue

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Sun Peaks Utilities Co., Ltd.

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