



EAST LARIMER COUNTY WATER DISTRICT FIRE HYDRANT METER RENTAL GUIDELINES

General: Fire hydrants are installed for the primary purpose of fire protection. Whenever a hydrant meter is placed on a hydrant, that hydrant is for all practical purposes out of service. In addition, the chances of damage to the hydrant are increased.

Intent: The use of fire hydrant meters is intended for only those situations when a large volume of water is needed in a short period of time. These meters shall not be used as a temporary substitute for a permanent water service connection or a permanent irrigation tap. Water shall not be transported or used outside the District's service area boundary.

Guidelines & Procedures: The following guidelines shall be used for regulating the use of fire hydrant meters:

1. If a fire hydrant meter is in use for 30 days or more, the meter must be made available to be read and inspected by ELCO staff to insure proper meter and backflow operation and that reasonable care is being exercised. The customer will be billed for the metered water usage, meter rental and fees every 30 days through the length of the hydrant meter rental period. Usage of the hydrant meter may be extended for an additional 30-day period, depending on availability.
2. A deposit of \$750 must accompany the request. The deposit will first cover any damages to the hydrant meter, fire hydrant or road area. Any remaining deposit will be applied to charges incurred for water usage, meter rental, and the 15% administrative and overhead fee. The District will bill the customer if the deposit does not cover all the charges and fees or refund the customer any excess monies.
3. Proof of Liability Insurance is required prior to the approval to the rental of a hydrant meter.
4. The number of fire hydrant meters is limited; therefore, the meters are available on a first come/first serve basis.
5. Each request will be reviewed to determine if the proposed use meets the intent of these guidelines. The use of the water from a hydrant meter for other than the stated purpose or misrepresentation of that use will result in the loss of the convenience of obtaining water in this manner.
6. ELCO will determine on a case-by-case basis whether a particular fire hydrant is suitable for the installation of a meter. Not all hydrants are available for use with a meter. If the requested hydrant is not available, alternate hydrants will be suggested.

7. The customer shall control the flow of water from the meter with valve assembly provided with the meter and is responsible for securing this valve to prevent unauthorized use of water by others. Meters must be removed from hydrant when not in use and securely stored to prevent damage or theft.
8. During winter months, fire hydrant meters will be issued only during periods of mild weather to prevent damage from frozen piping and hydrant assemblies.
9. Meters will be issued with a male 2 1/2-inch National Standard thread connection. No hoses or adapters of any kind will be provided. These items are available from local rental businesses.
10. The customer is responsible for all rental fees and other charges as outlined in the attached Summary of Fire Hydrant Meter Fees and Charges schedule.
11. The customer is responsible for any and all damage to the meter and/or fire hydrant while the meter is installed and shall return the area around the fire hydrant including all roadways and road shoulders to the condition they were in prior to the fire hydrant usage.
12. In accordance with applicable state and local laws and/or ordinances it is unlawful to intentionally waste water. Wasteful use water through the hydrant meter will not be permitted and such misuse may result in discontinuance of such service.
13. The transfer of water from any fire hydrant into any container, tank, vessel, pipe, conduit, pond or other body of water is prohibited unless the hydrant is separated from the receiving unit by an approved air-gap separation or an approved reduced pressure principle backflow assembly.

Important Notice: Failure to comply with these guidelines or illegally obtaining water from or in any way tampering with a fire hydrant is a criminal offense under the Colorado Revised Statutes and upon conviction is punishable by a fine and/or imprisonment.

Should water be needed for any situation other than identified as acceptable in these guidelines, water is available at a bulk loading station located within the City of Fort Collins at 700 Wood Street. Please contact the City of Fort Collins for more information about the bulk station.

For building construction projects where a permanent water service will be required, water is also available through activation of the tap that will provide water service to the property.

**SUMMARY OF EAST LARIMER COUNTY WATER
DISTRICT FIRE HYDRANT METER
FEES AND CHARGES
Approved January 1, 2026**

DESCRIPTION	CHARGE
Deposit	\$750
Meter Rental	\$10.00/Day
Water Used	\$14.00/Thousand Gallons
Administration & Overhead	15% of Total Invoice
Replacement of Damaged Meter	\$4,000.00

CHARGES AND FEES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT NOTICE