

## Hydrant Color Code

When there is a fire, water districts are required to allow firefighters to access this water for firefighting purposes. They do this with the commonly known fire hydrant. Due to the numerous different supply systems throughout the United States, there can be a wide range of available supply, from 500 GPM or less to over 2500 GPM.

In an effort to make it easier for firefighters to know what a specific hydrant will supply, the National Fire Protection Agency (NFPA) recommends that fire departments and water districts follow a set standard of color-coding. Known as NFPA 291, it says fire hydrants using public water supply systems should be painted chrome yellow, and their tops and caps should indicate the available GPM. Below 500GPM should be red, 500-999 GPM should be orange, 1000-1499 GPM should be green, and 1500 GPM or more should be blue.

### GPM = Gallons Per Minutes

1500 GPM or more should be painted blue  
 1000 to 1499 should be green  
 500 to 999 GPM should be Orange  
 Below 500 GPM should be RED

Example:



Blue Hydrant Top  
 1,500+ GPM Flow Capability  
 with Quick Disconnect Fitting



Green Hydrant Top  
 1,000 to 1,499 GPM Flow Capability  
 (Not Yet Repainted)



Orange Hydrant Top  
 500 to 999 GPM Flow Capability  
 (Not Yet Repainted)



Red Hydrant Top  
 Less Than 500 GPM Flow Capability