

These photos depict illegal fire hydrant use. If water is needed from a Fresno City hydrant, users are required to pick up a travel meter from the Water Division and install it on the hydrant. The user then pays for the water used. Illegal use of a hydrant can result in a fine of \$500 or more. The following are examples of illegal use.

**(Call 621-5300 for information.)**

1. A user installed this Madera meter on a Fresno hydrant. A backflow device was also added. There was new construction in the area.
2. User hooked up a fire hose to a neighborhood hydrant to fill a swimming pool.
3. User installed this City of Fowler meter on a Fresno City hydrant for construction purposes.
4. User installed this City of Clovis meter for new construction.
5. User installed this hose to get water for construction of a wall.

**Fresno Municipal Code Chapter 6, Article 5, SEC. 6-534.  
USE OF FIRE HYDRANTS REGULATED.**

- a. When it is necessary to use water temporarily in connection with any type of construction or other operation at a place where the supply is inadequate for such purposes, application may be made to the Water Division for a permit to use water from a fire hydrant.
- b. No person other than a duly authorized employee of the city shall use water from, or connect any apparatus to, a fire hydrant without first obtaining a permit from the Water Division and securely attaching such permit to the fire hydrant at a conspicuous place near the point of connection.
- c. Each permit shall specify the fire hydrant or hydrants authorized to be used and no person shall attach such permit to any other hydrant, nor shall any person remove, obliterate, deface, or obscure any permit.
- d. No person other than a duly authorized employee of the city shall attach to the operating stem or cap of a fire hydrant any wrench or tool that is not approved by the Water Division for use on fire hydrants.
- e. Any permit, wrench, connecting apparatus, valve, hose, or other apparatus attached to a fire hydrant in violation of this section shall be subject to removal and confiscation by the city.
- f. The applicable water rate, determined as specified in Section 6-504, shall be doubled for water used in violation of this section, subject to the minimum charge designated in the Master Fee Resolution. No permit or additional permit shall be issued to any person who is in violation of this section until all such charges have been paid. 12354



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A fire hydrant (also known colloquially as a fire plug in the United States or as a johnny pump in New York City), is an active fire protection measure, and a source of water provided in most urban, suburban and rural areas with municipal water service to enable firefighters to tap into the municipal water supply to assist in extinguishing a fire.

The concept of fire plugs dates to at least the 1600s. This was a time when firefighters responding to a call would dig down to the water mains and hastily bore a hole to secure water to fight fires via bucket brigades or, later, via hand pumped fire engines. The holes were then plugged with stoppers, which over time came to be known as fire plugs. This is the source of the colloquial term fire plug still used for fire hydrants today. After the Great Fire of London in 1666, the city installed water mains with holes drilled at intervals, equipped with risers, allowing an access point to the wooden fire plugs from street level.


It has been claimed that Birdsill Holly invented the fire hydrant, but his 1869 design was preceded by many other patents for fire hydrants, and a number of these earlier designs were produced and successfully marketed. Numerous wooden cased fire hydrant designs existed prior to the development of the familiar cast iron hydrant. Although the development of the first above ground hydrant in the USA traces back to Philadelphia in 1803, underground fire hydrants — common in parts of Europe and Asia — have existed since the 1700s.

(From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia - [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fire\\_hydrant](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fire_hydrant).)




AVK Fire Hydrant

**Fresno Sketchbook**



The **MUELLER** has the appearance of the classic hydrant.


Some people believe that "plug ugly" perfectly describes the humble fire hydrant. But there is an engaging, utilitarian beauty to their diverse geometric configurations. Find a blue reflector in the street and nearby will be one of the 8,000 or more hydrants in the Fresno area. These should have a silver-painted barrel and a cap of red, yellow or green indicating the size of the water main. Red is the smallest and green the largest. Take note of the names too; Clow, Greenberg's Sons, Watrous, Rich, Dresser, or my favorite, the Darling Drytop.



The **IOWA** comes from Oskaloosa, Iowa, and has an interesting octagonal cap.

From 1935 until the mid-60s the **FRESNO** type hydrant was installed almost exclusively in the city. Designed by a Fresno fireman, it has proved to be a reliable design. Most were manufactured locally by the Kearney-Perkins Foundry.

1971 saw the first installations of this simple, less expensive hydrant. It was designed by Water Division George Lang and is called the **APOLLO**.



The **FIRE KING** is only 1-foot tall. It's a special airfield type found in Sierra SkyPark.

Fresno See/Doug Hansen

Left are examples of some fire hydrants which have been installed around Fresno.

- Illustrations by Doug Hansen

# FIRE HYDRANT INSTALLATION

