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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Spring hydrant flushing and maintenance begins Tuesday, May 4

Galesburg, IL (April 29, 2010) The city of Galesburg water division, in conjunction with the fire department, will begin the spring fire hydrant flushing program on Tuesday, May 4, 2010, and will generally occur Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. The first area to be tested will be the northwest quadrant of the City: West Main Street from the square west and North Henderson Street from West Main Street north. Local radio stations will be notified daily of the general hydrant flushing location.

Fire Department personnel will incorporate a unidirectional method in the testing process. This is a method of cleaning water mains through a network of flushing sequences with the water being discharged from the largest port on a fire hydrant. This program will involve closing valves in a specific sequence to create water movement in one direction while opening specific hydrants at the end of each sequence.

The importance of implementing this program will ensure the greatest quality of water throughout the entire system. This technique allows higher water flow velocities to produce better scouring of pipes. This process will dislodge and remove mineral deposits that have accumulated in the water mains.

The benefits include maintaining and potentially improving the water quality level in the mains. This method will also reduce bacteriological growth, restore disinfection residuals, improve color and turbidity, control corrosion and can help restore flow and pressures in the distribution system.

There may be a slight drop in pressure or a presence of discoloration from the minerals and sediments that are being flushed out of the system. Service should not be disrupted during the flushing process. Areas being affected by the flushing process will have flushing signs placed throughout each neighborhood as a reminder. We urge all residents to use caution while traveling around the Fire personnel and their vehicles, and while entering areas of water accumulation during this program.

For questions or concerns regarding the unidirectional flushing program please feel free to contact the water division at 309-345-3649.

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