

April 15, 2004

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***FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE***

**KEEP LANDSCAPING AWAY FROM HYDRANTS**

Dublin, OH, April 15, 2004 – Washington Township Fire Department will be flushing the more than 2300 publicly owned hydrants in the City of Dublin and in the unincorporated areas of the township from May 1<sup>st</sup> through June 30<sup>th</sup>. Residents are advised not to landscape around hydrants in accordance with the City of Dublin and Washington Township fire codes. The fire codes require a three-foot minimum clearance around hydrants.

“I can appreciate that residents want to make their properties attractive with colorful flowers and landscaping. However, planting around hydrants can make it difficult for firefighters to maintain, locate and even operate hydrants in the event of an emergency,” said Chief Allan Woo. It is better to maintain turf around hydrants,” said Chief Allan Woo.

The Fire Department will also conduct water hydrant flow tests this spring for approximately 150 hydrants. These annual tests are performed on a rotating schedule to help ensure that the water supply available at each one meets fire code standards.

Privately owned hydrants are not maintained by the fire department but are also required by law to be flushed in the spring to ensure they are available for use in the event of a fire emergency. Privately owned hydrants have white bases with green tops.

For more information regarding privately owned hydrants, including City ordinances requiring permits for using any fire hydrant, contact the City of Dublin Division of Streets and Utilities at 410-4750.

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The Washington Township Fire Department provides fire and emergency medical services to residents and organizations for the township’s unincorporated areas and the City of Dublin. The Department’s Bureau of Fire Prevention provides fire inspection services and a variety of ancillary services to residents and businesses including fire safety information, CPR classes, commercial and home fire safety inspections, educational presentations, and speakers for special interest groups.