Water flow tests are conducted to determine the available water supply for fire protection purposes, the flow that would be available from a fire hydrant for firefighting purposes, or the status of the water supply distribution system for fire protection systems or for firefighting purposes.

Tests should be conducted during peak demand, based on knowledge of the water supply and engineering judgement.

One hydrant is chosen by the Oceanside Fire Department to be the hydrant where the normal static pressure will be observed and where the residual pressure will be observed with the other hydrant flowing. To obtain satisfactory test results of theoretical calculation of expected flows or rated capacities, sufficient discharge should be achieved to cause a drop-in pressure at the residual hydrant of at least 10 percent.

TEST PROCEDURES:

A pressure gauge should be located on one of the 2.5-inch hydrant outlets.

A closed control valve connected to a discharge nozzle for the purpose of rate of flow measurement should be located on one of the other hydrant outlets.

The control valve on the other hydrant outlet should be opened. When the rate of flow stabilizes, rate of flow and residual measurements are taken and recorded.

In a typical test, the 100 psi or 200 psi gauge is attached to one of the 2.5-inch outlets of the residual hydrant. The gauge being utilized during the test should be a class I style gauge. If utilizing a class B gauge, 9 psi off the static and residual pressure should be documented.

The location of the flow shall be in a location that does not cause or result in erosion or create flooding issues. The discharge from the flow shall be treated properly by an approved method.