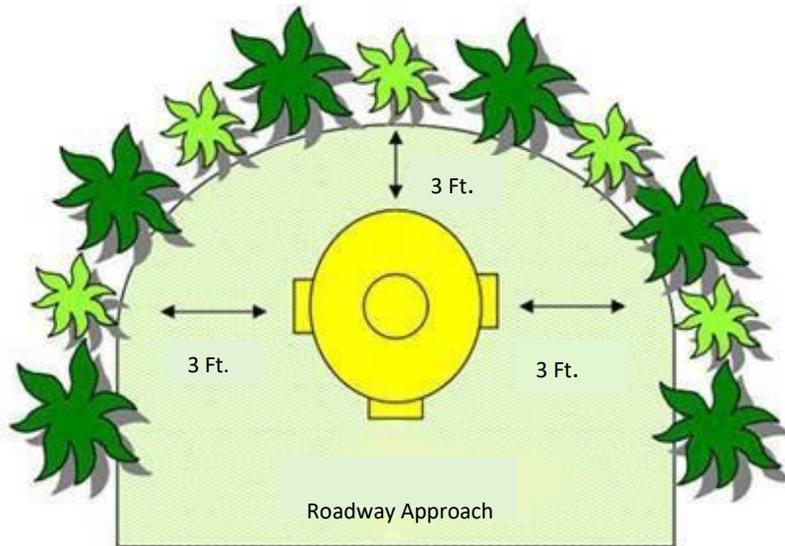


## The Village of Tequesta Fire Hydrants (FAQs)

Fire hydrants are designed to provide water for fire suppression purposes. Fire hydrants in the Village of Tequesta are owned and maintained by the Village of Tequesta Utility Department and are strategically placed to provide the best water protection available. Having a good water system allows the Village to have a better Insurance Services Office rating. ISO inspectors also review the accessibility, condition and maintenance of fire hydrants. The better the ISO rating we receive the better insurance rates that are available to homeowners.

The State Fire Marshal per Florida Statute adopts the Florida Fire Prevention Code NFPA 1 every 3 years. Chapter 18.1 provides requirements for fire department access and water supply. Section 18.3.4.1 states, "Fire hydrants and connections or other approved water supplies shall be accessible to the Fire Department".

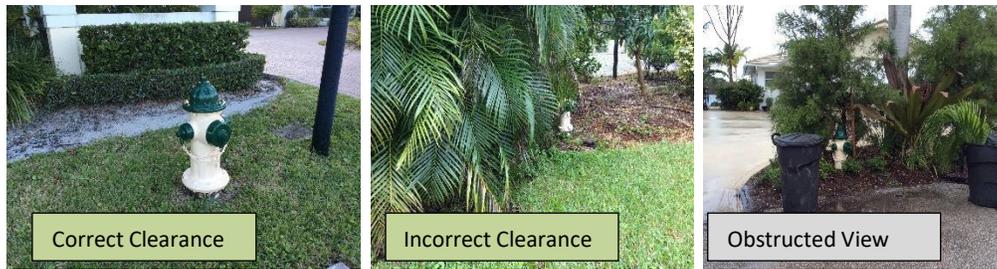
These clearances prevent delays in finding and using fire hydrants and fire protection equipment.



### **Clearance to Street**

A clear area for maneuvering equipment and firefighting apparatus must be maintained between the street and the front of the fire hydrants.

## Why is it important not to have obstructions around fire hydrants?



When responding to a fire situation, we rely on strategically located fire hydrants to supply us with the water we need to help with extinguishing a fire. We must be able to locate these fire hydrants quickly. Therefore, they must be clearly visible to us and unobstructed by vehicles, fences, or vegetation.

### Can I paint the fire hydrant in front of my house?

No. Fire hydrants are painted by the utility to be easily seen, and readily recognized by the Fire Department as being active.

### Why does the Utility tell me to move my bushes around the fire hydrant?

The Village of Tequesta has Fire Codes that require all hydrants be clear of obstacles inhibiting their use, and that they remain visible for a distance on approach from the roadway, regardless of direction of travel. The Fire Hydrant:

- Must not have anything higher than ground cover placed between it and the road.
- Must have clearance 3ft behind, 3ft. on both sides of the hydrant, open to the road in front and nothing blocking the hydrant from view.
- The hydrant must be visible to vehicle traffic for a minimum distance of fifty feet in either direction.

If you receive a notice that you have a fence, plant or other obstructing item, you must take corrective action. If you are not sure what actions to take, contact Sam Heady, Deputy Director of Utilities, 561-768-0490.

### The fire hydrant in front of my house is ugly and I want to hide it, can I?

- No. Based upon the Florida fire prevention code NFPA 1, hiding a hydrant could be considered a violation. Putting up natural (plant) or artificial (fence) screening between your residence and the hydrant may be OK, as long as it maintains an adequate working radius around the hydrant, and does not block its view from the roadway and approaches. If you wish to do some landscaping, wall building, or fence construction near a hydrant, please contact Sam Heady, Deputy Director of Utilities, 561-768-0490, first to see if it meets the proper clearance required. This could avert additional costs and concerns.
- No person shall place or keep any post, fence, vehicle, growth, vegetation, trash, or storage of other materials that would obstruct a fire hydrant or fire protection appliance and hinder or prevent its immediate use by fire department personnel. Such fire hydrant or fire protection appliance shall be maintained readily visible at all times.

Thank you,

Jay Wickham  
Superintendent of Water Distribution  
Village of Tequesta