

## Water Security

Water security is a shared responsibility involving Water Utilities, Fire Rescue, law enforcement, government and citizens. Each group can play a significant part in keeping our drinking water safe from potential tampering.

## The Problem

Water distribution systems have been identified as possible targets for terrorist activity. *Unauthorized connection can and will introduce bacteria or other contaminants into the drinking water.*

## The Solution

Hydrant Awareness and Lines Threat Prevention (H.A.L.T.). This program will increase government and community awareness of potential water system tampering and provide the necessary plan of action to immediately report suspicious activity in the area of hydrants and water mains.



### The Hydrant-

A connection point by which fire rescue and utility personnel can access water for emergency response or to monitor water quality.

## The Facts on Hydrants

- 💧 **Hydrant meter installation is easy!** Find more information and a Hydrant Meter Form by visiting [pbcwater.com](http://pbcwater.com), clicking on the "I want to" section, and then clicking on "Access Developer Information".
- 💧 **Tampering with public water supplies is a federal offense and a felony. Violators will be punished to the fullest extent of the law.**
- 💧 **PBCWUD maintains over 19,000 hydrants across a 1,300-square-mile service area of unincorporated Palm Beach County.**

## Best Water, Best Service, Best Environmental Stewardship



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Palm Beach County Board  
of County Commissioners

# H.A.L.T. Hydrant Awareness & Line Threat Prevention



Palm Beach County  
Water Utilities

## Do, Don't, Will, & Why

- Do complete the correct form to have a temporary water meter placed on the hydrant. This way, your project will have access to water.
- Don't tap into any Palm Beach County Water Utilities Department (PBCWUD) hydrant, pipe or device. Only PBCWUD employees or permitted contractors are authorized to do so.
- PBCWUD will confiscate any illegal hardware connected to our system in addition to contacting the police and code enforcement.
- Why are illegal connections important? Because they can introduce bacteria or other contaminants into the drinking water system, potentially affecting the health of our residents and your neighbors.

## Job Site Responsibility

- The contractor for a project is responsible for any subcontractors hired for the project.
- The Engineer of Record is responsible for protecting the public health, safety and welfare.
- Repeated or egregious violations will be forwarded to the Code Enforcement Special Master for adjudication or be fined by PBCWUD.

## What You Can Do

- **Be Alert!** Become familiar with PBCWUD vehicles and personnel.
- **Be Aware of Your Surroundings.** This will help you identify any suspicious activity or individuals.
- **Get your community involved.** Inform your neighborhood citizen's watch program and communicate regularly with PBCWUD and local law enforcement.
- **Do not tamper with utility property.**

## Proper Fire Hydrant Connection



✓ **Legal connection**

Approved hydrant backflow assembly in place.



X **Illegal connection**

No backflow prevention. If spotted, please report this activity immediately.

## Suspicious Activities

- Fire hydrant caps removed.
- Unauthorized connection to a fire hydrant.
- Unidentified vehicle parked next to fire hydrants such as a tanker-style vehicle.
- Non-county employees working on hydrants.

## What to Look for

- County logos on vehicles.
- Workers in county uniforms.
- Approved hydrant meters.

## If You Suspect Tampering

- Contact PBCWUD Communications Dispatch at (561) 493-6000, option 1.
- Do not approach strangers.
- Document the details of the incident as accurately as possible.

## The Laws on Tampering

- *Section 806.10, FS* – fire protection (felony).
- *Section 806.13, FS* – criminal mischief (misdemeanor, felony if greater than \$1000).
- *Section 812.14, FS* – tampering (misdemeanor).
- *Section 775.31, FS* – Increase of offense related to terrorism.
- *Section 119.07(6), FS* – Exempts from public disclosure.
- *Rule 62ER03-1, Chapter 62-555*, State notification of tampering incidents required within 2 hours.
- *SDWA, Sec. 1433*. Terrorist & Other Intentional Acts.
- *Title 18, Ch 113B* Terrorism, Sec 2332a.