

## What is Public Fire Protection?

Public Fire Protection is a charge that is regulated by the State of Wisconsin's Public Service Commission (PSC). This is a cost collected by municipal water utilities for the express purpose of recovering the costs to supply proper volume & pressure of water for fighting fires. This cost has absolutely nothing to do with the Fire Department. The Public Fire Protection charge covers the costs of the water utility to be able to deliver water for fighting fires & is completely independent of any expenses that the Fire Department may incur in order to use the water to fight the fire. Although hydrants are an important part of the cost, there are other expenses; such as increased sizes of water mains, increased pump capacity and increased storage capacity. These things must all be in place to make sure that the utility has enough capacity to provide water for fighting fires and still supply daily water needs at the same time.