

**From:** Stuckey, Carol (DOH) <Carol.Stuckey@DOH.WA.GOV>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 14, 2022 3:41 PM  
**To:** Vincent, Angela (ECY) <AVIN461@ECY.WA.GOV>  
**Cc:** Marcoe, Sheila (ECY) <smar461@ECY.WA.GOV>; Stuckey, Carol (DOH) <Carol.Stuckey@DOH.WA.GOV>  
**Subject:** RE: US Mail from the City of Gig Harbor

Hi Angela,

We don't have regulations that require water main and/or fire hydrant flushing. We do cover the topic in guidance and such flushing is an industry best practice. Numerous classes, webinars, etc. cover the topic. Certified operators are required to take continuing education credit classes and I expect that a class covering flushing is taken by most operators through the on-going classes that they take.

We strongly recommend a written SOP for all drinking water system operational procedures, including flushing. If a system is experiencing water quality or other problems that lead to the system's regulatory 'in-compliance' status being in jeopardy we may require a written SOP for a specific practice. In our every 5-year inspection of water systems (called a Sanitary Survey) with the certified operator(s) for the system we discuss their flushing practices and program, touching on the subject of flushing discharge de-chlorination and diffusion. It is up to the surveyor's discretion to ask to see the written SOP for any system practice, such as flushing.

Each water utility is required to have the services of a Cross-Connection Control Specialist (CCS); the CCS would determine if the utility's flushing apparatus should include a backflow prevention assembly.

I hope this is helpful.

**Carol Stuckey PE**

Regional Engineer

Office of Drinking Water Northwest Regional Office

Washington State Department of Health

[carol.stuckey@doh.wa.gov](mailto:carol.stuckey@doh.wa.gov)

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**From:** Vincent, Angela (ECY) <[AVIN461@ECY.WA.GOV](mailto:AVIN461@ECY.WA.GOV)>  
**Sent:** Monday, June 13, 2022 4:36 PM  
**To:** Stuckey, Carol (DOH) <[Carol.Stuckey@DOH.WA.GOV](mailto:Carol.Stuckey@DOH.WA.GOV)>  
**Cc:** Marcoe, Sheila (ECY) <[smar461@ECY.WA.GOV](mailto:smar461@ECY.WA.GOV)>  
**Subject:** FW: US Mail from the City of Gig Harbor

Hi Carol,

I found your contact info. on the WA DOH website under NWRO engineering staff.  
I work for the WA State Dept. of Ecology in our WQ program.

An engineering tech. (stormwater) with the City of Gig Harbor said the following to me:  
"We do not have an SOP for water flushing."

She also said:

“Additionally, all of our staff who perform water flushing have their Waterworks Operator Certificate from the Department of Health. That training discusses flushing operations including discharge diffusion and downstream erosion.”

It occurred to me that DOH rules may require the City of Gig Harbor have an SOP for water line flushing and fire hydrant system flushing.

Does DOH require local jurisdictions (e.g., City of Gig Harbor) to have a water line flushing SOP?

I am thinking about prevention of backflow.

Who is the right contact at WA DOH to receive and review this referral?

My work cell is 360-628-4734.

Sincerely,

Angela Vincent  
Municipal Stormwater Permit Planner  
SWRO WQ Watershed Resources Unit  
WA State Dept. of Ecology  
~~Desk: 360.407.6276~~  
Cell: 360.628.4734  
[Avin461@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:Avin461@ecy.wa.gov)

*teleworking due to Covid-19 until further notice*

**From:** Brienn Ellis <[BEllis@gigharborwa.gov](mailto:BEllis@gigharborwa.gov)>

**Sent:** Monday, June 13, 2022 8:36 AM

**To:** Vincent, Angela (ECY) <[AVIN461@ECY.WA.GOV](mailto:AVIN461@ECY.WA.GOV)>

**Cc:** Marcoe, Sheila (ECY) <[smar461@ECY.WA.GOV](mailto:smar461@ECY.WA.GOV)>; Bengé, Greg (ECY) <[gben461@ECY.WA.GOV](mailto:gben461@ECY.WA.GOV)>; Stockwell, Abbey (ECY) <[abst461@ECY.WA.GOV](mailto:abst461@ECY.WA.GOV)>; Griffith, Colleen (ECY) <[ccro461@ECY.WA.GOV](mailto:ccro461@ECY.WA.GOV)>; Heye, Amanda (ECY) <[ahey461@ECY.WA.GOV](mailto:ahey461@ECY.WA.GOV)>; Jeff Langhelm <[JLanghelm@gigharborwa.gov](mailto:JLanghelm@gigharborwa.gov)>

**Subject:** RE: US Mail from the City of Gig Harbor

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Good morning Angela,

If you can tell me where in the MS4 permit having an SOP for water flushing is required, I will happily create one. But I am not seeing that requirement.

I do see under S5.C.5.c.ii.a that it discusses that water line flushing is allowed if specific conditions are met. We are meeting all of those conditions.

Additionally, all of our staff who perform water flushing have their Waterworks Operator Certificate from the Department of Health. That training discusses flushing operations including discharge diffusion and downstream erosion.

I am available for a call or Teams meeting Tuesday, 6/14 from 1-2pm or 3-4 pm.

Respectfully,  
Bri

**Bri Ellis | Stormwater Engineering Technician**

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