

POLICIES AND PROCEDURES REGARDING THE USE OF WATER FROM FIRE HYDRANTS

It is the general policy of the Northeast Alabama Water Districts' Board to provide quality water service to residential, businesses, farms, and industries.

The Board cannot permit free water from its fire hydrants to any such customers without an impact on the ability to maintain stable rates. **IT IS ALSO UNLAWFUL TO OBTAIN WATER WITHOUT PAYMENT.** Section 13A-8-23, Code of Alabama states: (d) Any occupant, tenant, or other person who violates this section, and any person who aids and abets in such prohibited acts, who shall be deemed a principal to such acts, shall be guilty of a Class C felony if the theft amount exceeds five hundred dollars (\$500) in value and a Class A misdemeanor if the theft amount is less than or equal to five hundred dollars (\$500) in value, as provided by the state criminal code, and upon conviction, be punished as prescribed by law. No one is authorized to obtain water from fire hydrants unless:

- (1) The user is a full-time or volunteer fire department responding to fire calls or drills;
- (2) A customer or entity has applied to the Board at the main office in Fort Payne, secured written authorization to use water from a fire hydrant, and made satisfactory financial arrangements for the payment of all such water.

The personnel of the Board are authorized to monitor and inspect hydrants to detect unauthorized water use. Frequently, damage occurs to fire hydrants if improper tools are used to operate them. Unauthorized use of fire hydrants will be pursued for payment of water used and/or damage to fire hydrants. The law enforcement and fire department in each municipality are asked to enforce and report violations of this policy.

We solicit the cooperation of all our subscribers in helping to enforce this policy. Contact John Jordan or Mark Richards should you have any questions or wish to arrange for water use from a fire hydrant.