Building A New Fence, Rockery or Landscaping?

Keeping Hydrants and Meters Clear Is Extremely Important For Your Safety And Ours

When a fire breaks out, firefighters rely on being able to quickly locate and use fire hydrants. In addition, district staff strives to be efficient and read each meter quickly and safely, reading an average of 400 meters per day.

Both of these can be difficult when plant material or other items such as fences, rockeries, cars or construction debris hide hydrants and meter or make them difficult to access.

According to our Rules and Regulations for water use, the user is responsible for ensuring safe and efficient access to the meter and shutoff valve at all times and by connection to the system, the user consents to the right of TVWD employees or agents to remove obstructions as necessary to maintain access to the meter (TVWD Rules and Regulations document, Section 13).

If anything on your property is obstructing proper access to fire hydrants or water meters, TVWD will give you proper notice to remedy the problem. If there are still obstructions after notice is given, TVWD will take corrective action.

Tualatin Valley Water District
Delivering the Best Water Service Value
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Hydrant And Meter Accessibility Is Of Great Importance

Please plan ahead so we can provide good service and you can avoid the expense of moving your fence, rockery or landscaping when it's built.
Keep Fire Hydrants and Water Meters Clear

Are the fire hydrants and water meters on your property visible and accessible? Ensuring that fire hydrants and water meters are in good working condition are two priorities for the District. TVWD has to be able to easily read your meters, and if the fire department needs to use a fire hydrant, every second counts.

Every now and then, our employees find hydrants and water meters that are hidden by surrounding bushes or overgrown shrubs. If you have fire hydrants or water meters on your property, TVWD asks you to maintain the proper clearance. Water meters must be clear six feet above the meter box, two feet to each side, and have “free and clear” access, which means our meter readers can easily access the meter. Fire hydrants must be visible from the street. All obstructions to a fire hydrant must be trimmed or removed, maintaining three feet behind and five feet to each side. Ground clearance of hydrant ports must be 18 inches to the ground. Never paint a hydrant!

Since hydrant and meter accessibility and visibility is of great importance, TVWD asks you to maintain the proper clearance. We know most homeowners prefer to do landscape adjustments themselves, but if there are still obstructions after proper notification is given, the District will take corrective action.

Unacceptable Landscaping Around Meters and Hydrants

- Hidden hydrant
- Not enough clearance around hydrant
- Hard to access meter
- Hidden meter