

City of Rockford

Rockford Fire & Rescue Department

Kevin Reed
Fire Chief

Michael Beyer
Mayor, Firefighter

ADOPT-A-HYDRANT PROGRAM

Thank you for considering to participate in the **Adopt-a-Hydrant Program**. The **Rockford Fire & Rescue Department** along with the **Rockford City Council** are proud to offer this program and excited to see the creative ways the hydrants may be painted, if you choose to paint your adopted hydrant.

We want to start by introducing you to **Freddy the Fire Hydrant**.

Hi, I'm **Freddy Hydrant** and I want to tell you all about me. Being a fire hydrant is boring, but I have a very important job and I **need your help!** The Firefighters need help taking care of me and the other members of my "Hydrant family".

My family is hopeful that your family or group will consider adopting one of us. We are easy to care for. We do not have to be fed. We are very self sufficient in that regard. But fire hydrants do have a tendency to suffer from claustrophobia. In the winter we need a 3-foot radius of space cleared around us of snow and ice. In the summer we need to be kept clear of shrubbery, weeds and any other debris.

It is also important to us that we maintain a watchful eye on your neighborhood or business. To do so we not only need the 3-foot radius clear we also need to have the snow, shrubbery and weeds kept below our line of vision. This will help the firefighters locate us quickly. Valuable time is lost when firefighters cannot spot us quickly or need to shovel snow to hook up to us.

When adopting one of us you will need to keep a watchful eye on us. If we appear to have caught a cold and our noses begin to run please contact city hall immediately, as this may be fatal. (frozen fire hydrants are of no value to anyone) As you know we have no arms or legs. Please keep an eye on us so nobody vandalizes us or opens our caps.

By adopting one of us and providing this great care we can ensure we will be able to assist the firefighters when we are needed the most!

😊 To make my job more exciting and your job creative and fun the firefighters say you can paint me. You can paint me anyway you wish but you must follow these guidelines:

1. Clean me up, which may include some sanding to get me ready to paint.
2. Please paint me in good taste. I do not want to offend anyone. No camouflage, religious/political Symbols or advertising. (Have fun and make it fun for everyone).
3. I must be seen at night so remember the grass is green and the snow is white.
4. Please use Valspar Industrial Enamel paint available through Lamperts in Rockford.
5. Please don't paint me completely. I need to have my threads kept clean so my caps won't stick.
6. Remember, you can paint me, but you cannot alter my mechanical operations.
7. Please do not add any special devices to me.

Thank you for considering adopting me. To follow is the rest of the information you will need to complete my

adoption. I hope to see you soon!

Although, **Freddy Hydrant** explained it well, as firefighters we would like to stress the importance of keeping the city's fire hydrants clear of snow, shrubbery, weeds and any other debris. When arriving at a fire, a firefighter's "adrenaline" has kicked in and we are ready to go! In a case where a hydrant may be obstructed, valuable time is lost when firefighters need to clear a hydrant to hook up to it.

Since this is a volunteer program taxpayers dollars will not be used on made available for the program. To cover the cost of the paint the Adoption fee is \$30.00 for a five year adoption period. The Fire Department has made arrangements with Lampert Yards located in the City's Industrial Park. Lamperts can assist you in purchasing the proper products needed. Lampets will also bill the fire department for the paint which in turn the fire department will pay for out of the adoption fund.

Reduce – Reuse - Recycle

Since the Industrial Enamel Paint, needed to paint the hydrants is quite costly, as part of the program we ask that you please return any unused paints back to Lamperts. Lamperts has agreed to store the paints for the next adoptive family or group to use. Although it is estimated that the paint can last for up to five (5) years you may need to touch up your hydrant during the five (5) year period. If you need to touch up contact city hall, staff members will help you obtain the recycled paint.

If the hydrant you want to adopt is not on your property please contact city hall. Staff will provide you with a form for you and the property owner to sign which will state the property owner agrees to allow you onto the property. Please keep in mind that you are going to be the one with the ultimate responsibility for maintaining the area around the hydrant if that homeowner chooses not to.

In order to paint a hydrant, outdoor temperatures must be above 60 F, for several consecutive days. As a general rule, painting should be done during the months of June – October, depending on weather conditions.

Upon receiving your certificate of adoption you will also be given instructions on how to successfully paint your hydrant without affecting its function and a list of paint which can be picked up at Lamperts when you show your adoption paper.

Volunteers are asked to provide the following which you can also purchase at Lamperts:

- Wire or stiff bristle brush* and mild detergent, to clean dirt, rust, and loose paint from the hydrant
- Pencil to sketch basic design onto hydrant
- Paint brushes*
- Gasket material*
- Newspaper or drop cloth* to protect sidewalk or lawn
- Mineral spirits* to clean brushes, hands, and splashed or dribbled paint

We would like to say how much we appreciate your volunteer participation in this program. We would also like to encourage civic groups, neighborhoods, families, church groups and any other organizations to participate. This is a great way to share your creativity, imagination and to help beautify Rockford.

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