



Fire Protection First

Did you know that most community water systems in the United States were not created for drinking water? In fact, as most communities constructed their water systems in the 1800s, they were necessary to help fight fires. Structure fires were always a threat to the growing urban environment. And Tucson was no different.

In the early 1880s, the Tucson mayor and council wanted to encourage the creation of a pressurized water system for the Old Pueblo to ensure a widespread fire would not set back the growing City of Tucson. Remember, most cities in the West around this time were constructed with wood, and in Tucson, dry wood. By 1882, the council had its solution with the construction of the first pipeline and hydrant near the intersection of Main Avenue and McCormick Street, just south of Congress Street.

Today, the Tucson Water system contains over 5,000 miles of pipelines, 60 reservoirs, and hundreds of booster pumps that bring clean water to your home and protect our community from fires. Over 22,000 hydrants and thousands of on-site fire protection systems are located throughout the community ready for that call to help save lives and property if a fire ever breaks out. Tucson Water partners with the Tucson Fire Department and several fire districts throughout the region to ensure adequate flow and pressure are available for each new neighborhood and development in our community. To be prepared, thousands of fire hydrants are inspected and repaired throughout the year to be ready for a fire team to access in case of emergency.

What can you do to help prevent a widespread fire in your neighborhood? The best way to protect lives and property is to reduce those things that can fuel a fire. Debris, dried

to protect the property is to reduce these things that can fuel a fire, such as vegetation, and flammable items stored outside should always be kept to a minimum.