



**College Station Utilities**

Reliable, Affordable, Community Owned

**Water Services  
Department**

# What You Need to Know About Water Pressure



**CITY OF COLLEGE STATION  
Planning & Development  
Services**

P.O. Box 9960 College Station, TX 77842

Water Services 979-764-3660 <http://www.cstx.gov/> Planning & Development Services 979-764-3570

## **Public Water Systems: From the Source to the Water Meter**

A good, reliable source of water is essential for proper hygiene and fire fighting. Public water supplies in Texas, such as the Water Services Department of College Station Utilities, are required by stat law to maintain a minimum water pressure throughout the water distribution system during normal operating conditions. Water pressure in College Station is maintained through head pressure in our elevated storage tanks (one on Park Place behind HEB and one on William Fitch Parkway at Highway 6).

Under the Rules and Regulations for Public Water Supply Systems (Title 30 Texas Administrative Code, Chapter 290, Subchapter D, or 30 TAC 290), College Station Utilities has the following responsibilities for maintaining water pressure:

- Maintain minimum operating pressure of 35 pounds per square inch (psi) throughout the water distribution system.
- Maintain minimum operating pressure of 20 psi under fire flow conditions.

\* Note that there is not a a maximum water pressure requirement for public water supply systems. \*

For questions about water pressure in the City's distribution system, call College Station Utilities at 764-3660 or 764-3638 (24-Hour Utility Dispatch).

## **Plumbing Code: From the Water Meter to the Customer**



The City of College Station also has regulations concerning the maximum water pressure in private plumbing systems, such as the water piping in private residences and businesses.

The Plumbing Code for the City of College Station is the International Plumbing Code, which became effective on January 1, 2002 and was updated in 2004. The International Plumbing Code requires:

- Where the water pressure within a building exceeds 80 psi, an approved water pressure reducing valve or regulator must be installed.
- The pressure reducing valve should be capable of limiting the water pressure in the building water distribution piping to 80 psi or less.

If your residence or business was built before January 2002, it may not have a pressure reducing valve installed. If you have an irrigation system, you may want to have a licensed irrigator evaluate your system to make sure it's operating at the proper water pressure. The pressure reducing valve should be installed by a licensed plumber and be located on the customer's side of the water meter.

For questions about water pressure *inside* buildings, call Planning & Development Services' **Building Division** at 764-3570.

