Beginning July 1, 2019, the following changes will go into effect regarding the Bureau of Utilities fire hydrant meter rental program:

Fire hydrant meters rental agreements will be for six-months. The meter must be returned to the Bureau of Utilities on or before the expiration date as noted on the rental agreement. If a fire hydrant meter is still needed at the conclusion of the six months, a new agreement must be obtained.

- A monthly usage log must be kept that records the location (i.e. hydrant #), the time of connection, the date, the beginning meter reading and the ending meter reading for each meter usage.

- A monthly usage log and a photograph of the meter dial and number shall be emailed by the first of each month to rentalimeters@howardcountymd.gov.

- An estimated water usage charge of 1,500 gallons per day will be billed if meter readings are not provided for the quarterly bill.

- If a meter is lost or stolen, the customer’s deposit will immediately be applied towards the cost of a replacement meter. Additionally, the customer will be billed for any replacement costs that exceed the amount of the deposit. Furthermore, the following costs will also be assessed against the account:
  1. late fees;
  2. monthly service charges and
  3. a water usage charge of 1,500 gallons per day

- The Bureau of Utilities reserves the right to perform periodic field inspections of the meter during the six-month rental period.

- The deposit for a one-inch meter has increased from $350.00 to $400.00 and for a three-inch meter from $1,250.00 to $1,500.00

- The entire monthly service charge will be assessed no matter what day of the month the agreement begins.

- When submitting a fire hydrant rental agreement, the following documents are required:
  1. a valid, state-issued identification card (i.e. a driver’s license);
  2. a company business card;
  3. a copy of your Federal Tax Identification number (i.e. copy of your W-9) and
  4. a check or money order for your deposit payment ($400 for a one-inch meter) or $1,500 for a three-inch meter). Cash will not be accepted.