

person, firm or corporation shall operate, use or make connection with the same without the written authority of the Commission, excepting that no restrictions shall apply to any bona fide fire department in the discharge of its duties. No person, firm or corporation shall tamper with, deface, damage or obstruct any fire hydrant. Any violation of any of the provisions of this section shall be a misdemeanor punishable under Section 444 of this sub-title.

Section 437. For the purpose of providing funds for maintenance, repairing and operating its water supply, sewerage or drainage systems, and for its operation and other expenses, including proper depreciation allowances, and for interest on, and the retirement of bonds as specified in this Act, the Commission is hereby empowered to make a ready-to-serve charge on water and a charge for the upkeep of sewers chargeable against all properties having a connection with any water pipe or sewer pipe under its supervision or ownership. Said rate for both ready-to-serve and such charge for the upkeep on sewers shall be uniform throughout each sanitary district, subject to such changes from time to time as may be necessary. The charge for the upkeep on sewers shall be reasonable and collected annually in the same manner as benefit assessments are collected and shall be a first lien against all property having a connection with any sewer pipe under its supervision or ownership. The rates for water service shall consist of a minimum or ready-to-serve charge, which shall be based upon the size of the meter on the water connection leading to the property, and of a charge for water used, which shall be based upon the amount of water passing through the meter during the period between the last two readings, said meter being required to be placed on each water connection by and at the sole expense of the Commission. If the Commission at any time shall not have meters available to install in all the properties in a given locality that are connected with the system, then a flat rate shall be charged all properties in which meters have not yet been installed, which rate shall be uniform in each district and based upon the amount of water used. Bills for the amount of the charges as above specified shall be sent quarterly or semi-annually, as the Commission may determine, to each property served, and shall be thereon payable at the office of the Commission; and if any bill remain unpaid after thirty days from date of sending, the Commission shall, after written notice left upon the premises or mailed to the last known address of the owner, turn off