

# Mayor: East Point's old pipes likely caused hydrant failure

## *City and state doing separate investigations of pressure problem during Sunday fire*

By [ERIC STIRGUS](#)

The Atlanta Journal-Constitution

Tuesday, September 09, 2008

East Point Mayor Joseph Macon said Tuesday that longstanding water pressure problems in the city were likely responsible for several hydrants being inoperable Sunday when its firefighters tried to battle an apartment fire.

"I think the water pressure problem has to do with an aging infrastructure," Macon said in a telephone interview.

City and state officials announced Monday they will conduct separate investigations of East Point's fire hydrant system. Residents say firefighters tried five hydrants before finding one that worked properly three blocks away — more than a quarter-mile — from the burning apartment building.

No injuries were reported in the fire. The apartment building was vacant.

Georgia Fire and Insurance Commissioner John Oxendine said if his office discovers the city has a history of hydrants failing, he will ask the Insurance Services Office, an independent organization that measures risks for fire departments and insurance regulators, to revisit East Point's fire protection rating, which could cause homeowner insurance rates to rise.

The ISO rates more than 45,000 communities nationwide on firefighting operations, equipment, dispatching and water supplies. Insurers use the ISO's ratings to set property insurance rates.

Macon said he expects the city's investigation to be completed in about a week. East Point started a \$54 million campaign in 2006 to improve its water and sewer systems.