

STRAIGHT FROM THE TAP

DECEMBER 2013

ISSUE 17

Recent Boil Water Notice

You most certainly are aware of the recent BOIL WATER NOTICE which was issued on September 21, 2013. Let us explain what happened: King County Water District 54 routinely draws 6 bacteria (coliform) samples every month for testing, and one of these samples tested positive for fecal coliform. The next step requires three additional samples which must be collected and one of these follow-up tests indicated coliform present, (Coliform is not necessarily harmful, it can be dirt, pollen, etc.) but was negative for fecal coliform. Therefore, DOH required the public notification and the boil water order.

We worked with the Department of Health to get

the message out as quickly as possible, going through the news channels and print media. In addition, we used the "Greater Federal Way Emergency Operation Center" Emergency Notification Program "Code Red" this program was offered for our use by South King Fire & Rescue. If you did not receive a notification it is most likely because your phone service is provided by your internet service (Viop), you are using a cell phone as your primary phone or you have your landline blocked. To insure that you are included in the emergency "Code Red" call system we are asking that you go to the website and add your contact information. **Please go to: <http://www.ecnetwork.com/codered/>** then go to 'Contact', then to 'Code Red Citizen Sign up'. Fill out

the form and submit it. There is no charge for this service.

If you do not have a computer with internet service, we are including a signup sheet in this newsletter, please fill it out and return it to us, we will also have forms available at the District office. Our office manager will input the information for you. The District office has a drop box in the door so you can return your form at your convenience.

Many people left their phone numbers with us during the boil water incident but if your address was not left with your phone number, we can not enter your information. Please come by and fill out the information again. This per-

tains mostly to individuals that live in condos or apartments in the area.

Well 6 Project

The District has two reservoirs and water is drawn from the wells and delivered to the lower reservoir and then through the pump building to the elevated reservoir. After the water enters the elevated reservoir it is then gravity fed to your home or business.

The work involved piping Well 6 to deliver water to the lower reservoir. An automatic control valve was installed and process control was reconfigured

The completion of this work will allow us to take the elevated reservoir out of service so that we can repaint and rebuild the emergency overflow box and pipe inside of the reservoir. We also intend to pressure wash and repaint the outside.

Open Commissioner Position at WD 54

The Water District is managed by a Board of three Commissioners elected to serve 6 year terms.

In the last election the candidate was running for office unopposed when he passed away shortly before the election, creating a vacancy which the two remaining Board members will fill by interviewing

candidates. **If you or somebody you know would be interested in applying for the vacant position, send a resume to the District office before January 10, 2014.**

Our current Board of Commissioners are: Vic Pennington II, who has been on the Board for 2 years and serves as the Board

President He is a lifetime resident of Des Moines. His day job is as a Deputy Fire Chief for South King Fire and Rescue.

And Alli Larkin, who has been on the Board for 10 years. She is a beach naturalist and is involved in keeping the water free of chlorine and fluoride.



Water Conservation

Although we are surrounded by water, 97% is saltwater and is not drinkable. In fact, only 3% of the world's water is fresh water and of this 2% is stored in icecaps and glaciers. That leaves only 1% that is stored in underground aquifers, rivers and streams and is available for drinking.

Saving Energy = Saving Money

By conserving, you can save on your water and utility bills.

You'll save energy by reducing the amount of hot water you use and by saving electricity used to pump water.

Insulate your hot water tank. If your hot water tank is not insulated, an insulation blanket can help save money.

With population and industry growth comes a greater thirst for water. Water is a

limited resource that can quickly become scarce if we do not take measures to conserve and protect it.

4 easy ways to conserve

1. Watch how much water you use when doing dishes, brushing teeth, showering and washing your car.

2. Fix leaks. A faucet that drips can waste up to 3,280 gallons of water per year.

Most leaks are easy to repair.

3. Reuse water when you can. A bucket in the shower can catch water for plants and clean-up jobs. Remember a shower uses less water than a bath.

4. There are numerous water saving devices on the market. Look for aerators and displacement devices to make your home conservation friendly.

How to Read Your Water Meter

By learning to read your water meter, you can verify the accuracy of the reading on your bill, determine if you have a leak, and monitor the amount of water your household uses.

Water meters are installed in the ground, surrounded by a meter box. They are normally located at the roadside or near the property line. If you

are not sure where your meter is located, call the office for help.

District water meters measure in cubic feet units. The District bills for water in 100 cubic foot units, (100 cubic feet = 748 gallons) the meters do not include numeric place values after the decimal point. To track 100-cubic foot

readings on your water meter, when reading your meter you will need to exclude the digits to the farthest right. Your water meter may have a leak detector/low flow indicator on it. It is a black or red triangle on the meter face. If any amount of water is passing through the meter, the indicator will move to detect flow.

Use your water meter to check for leaks in your home. Leaks can waste more than 10% of your total usage. To save costs to you and the environment, check for leaks regularly and repair them promptly.

Cross Connection

A cross connection (backflow) is an actual or potential connection between a public water system and any source of non-potable liquid, solid, or gas that could potentially contaminate water supply through a backflow process. Cross connections usually occur unknowingly when someone makes a connection to a system. Simply leaving a garden hose submerged in a bucket is an example of a cross connection.

Backflow is the reverse flow of water or other substance into the public water system. If the

Winterizing Your Pipes

Don't let this season's cold weather catch you unprepared. To prevent your plumbing from freezing here are a few things you can do.

- Insulate exposed pipes and outdoor faucets. Wrap the faucet with rags and duct tape or buy a Styrofoam cover for exposed faucets.
- Disconnect all garden hoses from faucets.
- Know where your inside

and meter shut-off valves are located. Ensure that your shut-off valve is operational. If you can't shut-off the water know where the shut-off is to save time for a plumber or for water district personnel in the event they are called.

List all utilities, have quick access to your water district phone number.

Keeping essential numbers posted on the refrigerator or in a convenient location makes for a less stressful emergency.

- If on an outside wall, leaving cupboard doors underneath kitchen sinks open in very cold weather will help keep pipe from freezing.
- You are responsible for all lines beyond the meter.

Unidirectional Flushing

The District has begun its annual unidirectional flushing program this month.

What is unidirectional flushing?

It is a method of cleaning the water mainlines through a network of flushing sequences with water being dis-

charged from a fire hydrant. A unidirectional program involves closing valves in a specific sequence to create water movement in one direction while opening specific fire hydrants at the end of the sequence. The unidirectional flushing technique allows higher water flow velocities by isolating certain sections of water mains. The higher water velocity allows for better scouring of the pipes and will use 40% less water in this process than conventional flushing methods.

Why is the District flushing?

Water mains are flushed at high velocity to remove sediment and mineral deposits that accumulate in the water mains and to maintain water clarity and quality. In addition it gives District personnel the

opportunity to operate hydrants and valves and to fix any problems we may encounter. This helps to assure that hydrants and valves are in good working order.

How will you be Affected?

You probably won't be affected. Flushing will generally be conducted between 8:30 a.m. and 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, with the downtown business area being done after midnight to not disrupt business. We select hydrants in each neighborhood to be open for flushing. While the hydrants are open, the homes on that block *may* experience cloudy water or a slight drop in pressure, however; your water service should not be interrupted.

If you are experiencing discolored water:

Should a reddish, yellow or brown tint appear in the water, do not be alarmed, it is not harmful but we don't recommend that you use the water or do laundry for about 2 hours. After you have waited, run your bathtub cold water or hose bibs for a few minutes to make sure the water is clear at which time you may resume normal water use. Do not use hot water until the water runs clear. The intent is to keep the cloudy water out of your hot water tank.

If the water does not clear up within a few hours please notify the office (206) 878-7210.

Cross Connection

(cont.)

water system experiences a negative pressure like a main break, a vacuum can be created, siphoning water back into the public water supply.

Under backflow conditions, unprotected cross connections can provide a path for biological, chemical, or physical contaminants to enter the water supply. These contaminants can lead to waterborne disease outbreaks, and chemical poisoning.

All Public Water Systems are required to have a cross connection program, and to continually monitor the program. This requires having customers test their backflow prevention assemblies annually.

The Commissioners of the Water District are currently considering fees to cover the District cost of maintaining this program.

If you have any questions regarding backflow or the Districts cross connection program please contact Eric Clarke at the District office at (206) 878-7210.

King County Water District 54 is 100% reliant upon water drawn from wells in the Highline Aquifer that lies beneath our local area. While the wells are located within Des Moines near the water reservoirs, hydrogeologists tell us that much of the area that contributes water to the wells spans several square miles. It is bounded by 188th Street to the north, Pacific Highway on the east, Kent - Des Moines Road on the south and Puget Sound on the west. This area is called our Wellhead Protection area.

The District is required to

prepare a Wellhead Protection Plan. The plan is designed to assess existing and potential contamination that could occur within our Wellhead Protection area as well as identifying possible mitigation and containment measures should a contamination occur. The types of contamination likely to occur are dependent upon land uses within the area. The potential for contamination is based upon the types of chemicals used, their volume and frequency of use as well as the handling, containment and monitoring measures established and observed to ensure safe operations.

The District has an inventory of specific existing and potential sites for contamination. Contaminates in our soil or water could foul our water supply. Please follow proper procedures for the handling of fuels, cleaners, fertilizers and other chemicals. If a contamination occurs, please notify health and safety authorities.

Lastly, if your site does handle potential contaminants frequently or in large quantities and you have not been contacted by the District, Please give us a call at the office (206)878-7210.

Wellhead Protection

KING COUNTY WATER DISTRICT NO. 54

922 South 219th Street
Des Moines, WA 98198

Phone: 206-878-7210
Fax: 206-824-1909

Presorted Standard
U.S. Postage
PAID
Seattle, WA
Permit No. 4136

Water District 54 Hours

Office: M-F 7:30 a.m.-4 p.m.
Answering Service: Available
24 hours a day, 7 day a week.

Board of Commissioner
Meetings held 1st and 3rd
Tuesdays at 4:00 pm at the
District offices.

Page 1

..Recent Boil Water Notice
..Commissioner Position
..Well 6 Project

Page 2

..Water Conservation
..Meter Reading
..Cross Connection
..Winterizing your Pipes

Page 3

..Unidirectional Flushing
..Cross Connection (cont.)
..Wellhead Protection

Page 4

..Your Opinion Counts!

Your Opinion Counts!

Because of the recent e-coli situation we are currently injecting chlorine into the water and until the Board of Commissioners and the Department of Health determine to either chlorinate continuously or decide to shut the chlorination off. **We would like your opinion on how you feel about chlorinating the water system. Do you want to continue to chlorinate or go back to the non-chlorinated system we had?**

We will continue to inject chlorine into the water until we have completed all

the requirements of the Department of Health and they give us authorization to discontinue the chlorine. As of yet, it has not been determined whether this will be a permanent situation or not, so we would like to hear from you ASAP. So, expect your water to have chlorine until it has been determined if we can shut the chlorination system off.

One problem we are currently experiencing with the chlorine is brown or cloudy water. You may or may not be experiencing some of this from your tap,

this is due to the chlorine scouring the inside walls of the pipes. The brown substance is a mineral called Manganese, this mineral is not harmful, just a nuisance. Staff has been flushing the mains to help remove the loose mineral in the water system.

WE ASSURE YOU THAT YOUR TAP WATER IS SAFE TO DRINK.

We would appreciate your opinion on how you feel about continuing to chlorinate the water. Please stop by the office, drop us a note or call the District at (206)878-7210 with your opinion.



High-speed community notifications

Please print all information clearly

Name: _____

Location type: _____ Home _____ Business

Address: _____

Phone numbers you want associated with this address:

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

Would you like an email contact also?: _____

I authorize personnel of King County Water District #54 to submit this information electronically

X _____ Please print name: _____



KEEPING CITIZENS INFORMED



Please print all information clearly

Name: _____

Location type: _____ Home _____ Business

Address: _____

Phone numbers you want associated with this address:

- 1. _____
- 2. _____
- 3. _____
- 4. _____

Would you like an email contact also?: _____

I authorize personnel of King County Water District #54 to submit this information electronically

X _____ Please print name: _____