



Running Springs Water District November 2014 Newsletter



The Running Springs Water District is providing this Newsletter to our customers as part of our public outreach effort to share information regarding the District's ongoing activities, operations and services.

WINTERIZE YOUR HOME OR CABIN TO AVOID CATASTROPHIC WATER LOSS AND COSTLY REPAIRS

Is your home ready for the approaching cold winter weather? Freeze-related water leaks have been known to waste thousands of gallons of water and in the past have increased some monthly water bills to over \$3,000. Don't let this happen to you.



Remember, all water lost due to frozen/broken pipes is the homeowner's responsibility. However, just a few precautions can greatly reduce your risk. Some important steps to take to avoid frozen/broken pipes and costly repairs include: checking your plumbing to ensure it is in good operating condition, protect all exposed piping, install a customer shut-off valve (CSOV), safeguard your CSOV from unauthorized use and vandalism, seal off access doors, air vents and cracks and instruct guests that may use your home about the proper use of the CSOV.



Carbon Monoxide Poisoning Awareness and Prevention

Roughly 30 to 40 people die annually in California from exposure to Carbon Monoxide gas. All single and multiple family dwellings are now required to have Carbon Monoxide detectors installed. Prevention measures to avoid Carbon Monoxide poisoning include:

- *Install Carbon Monoxide detectors on walls at least a couple of feet below the ceiling outside each sleeping area.

- *Ensure Carbon Monoxide detectors are installed and working properly.

- *Do not idle your car in your garage even for short periods of time.

- *Never use gas-powered or charcoal grills indoors.

- *Never ignore the Carbon Monoxide poisoning symptoms of dizziness, nausea, headaches and sudden sleepiness. Get out of your home immediately and into fresh air, then call 911.

Fire Safety for Homes during the Winter Months

Fireplaces and wood burning stoves are very common heat sources in mountain homes. Potential fire hazards can be avoided by paying careful attention to safety.

When using a wood burning stove, it should be Underwriters Laboratories (UL) listed, be made of good quality, solid construction and design. Do not use flammable liquids to start or accelerate any fire. Always keep a glass or metal screen in front of the fireplace to prevent any sparks or embers from escaping. Before you call it a night, be sure to double check that the fire is out and NEVER close your damper with hot ashes in the fireplace.

When using a furnace as a heat source, it is important to have your furnace inspected to ensure it is in proper working condition. Inspect the walls and

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ceiling near the furnace and along the chimney line and if the wall is hot or discolored, additional insulation may be required. Keep trash and other combustibles away from the heating system. It is important to leave furnace repairs to qualified specialists.

Remember never to use a range or an oven as an alternate heating source. Not only is it a safety hazard, it can be a source of potentially toxic fumes. Avoid using electric space heaters in bathrooms or other areas where they may come into contact with water. Be sure that every level of your home has a working smoke detector that is cleaned and inspected monthly and remember to change the batteries every six months.

Fats, Oils and Grease (FOG)



Grease in sewer pipes causes sewer maintenance problems for property owners and the District. Never put grease, oil or fatty foods in your sink, drain or toilet and try to use your garbage disposal less.

District Considering Increase to Fire Availability Fee to Continue Local Control of Fire and Emergency Medical (Ambulance) Services

At a Special Board Meeting held on April 2, 2014 the District's Board of Directors and staff discussed the need for increased revenue to fund the local operation of the Running Springs Fire Department and Emergency Medical (Ambulance) Services.

The existing Running Springs Fire Department Fire Availability Fee is a Special Tax that owners of developed property in the Running Springs Water District service area pay to help fund the local operation of the Running Springs Fire Department. The voters approved this \$65/year fee which was put into effect on March 11, 1980 by Ordinance No. 9. If adjusted for inflation the fee would be \$158/year in 2014.

Survey forms have been sent out to our customers asking for their input on this very important issue of additional revenue needed to help to fund the continued local operation of the Department which is still the most cost effective and efficient alternative. **PLEASE FILL OUT AND RETURN YOUR SURVEY FORM OR YOU CAN REQUEST A SURVEY FROM THE OFFICE.**

CAL FIRE - Fire Prevention Fee

It is important to note and make the clear distinction to our customers that the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) Fire Prevention Fee is not in any way affiliated with the Running Springs Water District or Running Springs Fire Department. A bill passed by the Legislature and signed into law by Governor Jerry Brown in July 2011 established this annual Fire Prevention Fee to be collected from the owners of private property located within the State Responsibility Area. The fee is \$115 per habitable structure for those that already pay a special tax or assessment to a local fire district. This fee is currently being challenged by the Howard Jarvis Tax Payers Association. If you do not agree with the legality / constitutionality of the CAL FIRE fee and would like to protest it, the following link has information on how to do so:

http://firetaxprotest.org/?page_id=13

For more information regarding District functions and activities, please visit the District's websites at:

www.runningspringswaterdistrict.com

www.runningspringsfd.org

or contact the District office by phone at 909-867-2766, or by mail at P.O. Box 2206, Running Springs, CA, 92382. In addition, we hold public Board Meetings at 9:00 a.m. on every third Wednesday of the month at our District Office located at 31242 Hilltop Blvd. (Highway 18) in Running Springs. Members of the public are always invited and encouraged to attend these meetings.

Please provide your email address on your next bill if you would like to receive District information by email.

The District now accepts credit card payments in person at the main office. Credit, debit card or electronic check payments may also be made online at: <https://ipn.paymentus.com/otp/stde/rswd> or by calling Paymentus at 877-506-3112.

"The Mission of the Running Springs Water District is to provide water, fire, emergency medical service, sewer, and other beneficial services to the community: The goal of the District shall be to do so with the highest level of integrity and ethical principles and in the most efficient and cost effective manner possible."