

Running Springs Water District

October District Newsletter

We are providing this Newsletter to our customers in an effort to share information regarding the District's ongoing activities, operations and services.

Are you winter ready?

Each year our crews respond to hundreds of avoidable winter-related service calls. Winter-related leaks can waste millions of gallons of water and in the past have increased a monthly water bill to \$3,200.00. Precautions to take include: protecting exposed pipes, checking plumbing to make sure it is in good operating condition, protecting shut-off valves from vandalism and unauthorized use and instructing guests that may use your home about the use of the shut-off valve. Taking the steps to winterize your home can avoid any costly expenses and damages.

To aid in preventing frozen pipes, be sure to check all your water lines from the meter to the house, to be sure there are no exposed lines or fixtures. They should be sufficiently insulated to prevent freezing. Locating and using your water shut off valve is very important in preventing damage to your property. When leaving your home, the only sure way to prevent the possibilities of frozen pipes is to turn off the water and drain the plumbing when the home is left unattended. Disconnect and drain all outdoor hoses. If you depend on gas or electricity for heat to prevent your lines from freezing, be aware that these utilities can be interrupted especially during storms or emergencies, and your premises may be without heat for an extended period. It is very important if you leave your home for a period of time, that the water is turned off at your shut off valve.

It is the responsibility of each property owner and resident to protect their premises from freezing weather and to maintain the water lines on their property. We recommend that the water lines, hot water heater and fixtures are inspected on a regular basis. If you do have a water emergency, please contact the Water District for assistance at (909) 867-2340.

Winter Fire Safety for Homes

Wood stoves and fireplaces are becoming a very common heat source in homes. Careful attention to safety can minimize potential fire hazards. If using your wood stove, it should be of good quality, solid construction and design, and should be UL listed. Your chimney should be inspected annually and cleaned if necessary. 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 jumping out. Before you go to bed be sure to double check that the fire is out and NEVER close your damper with hot ashes in the fireplace.

For furnace heating, it is important to have your furnace inspected to insure it is in proper working condition. Inspect the walls and ceiling near the furnace and along the chimney line. 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 to never use a range or an oven as a supplementary heating device. Not only is it a safety hazard, it can be a source of potentially toxic fumes. Avoid using electric space heaters in the bathrooms or other areas where they may come in contact with water. Be sure that every level of your home has a working smoke detector, be sure to clean and inspect it monthly and to change the batteries semiannually.

Downtown Basketball Court

You may have seen the beginning construction of the basketball court located downtown. The Running Springs Water District is leasing the property to the Rim of the World Park and Recreation, who will also be maintaining the basketball court. The project is being completed by a member of our local Eagle Scouts. The time, materials, and funding have all been donated by some of our local companies, as well as, organizations located down the mountain. The estimated completion of the basketball court is scheduled for the end of October, 2010.

Emergency Services Day

The Running Springs Fire Department held its annual Emergency Services Day/Open House for the public on October 9, 2010. The Fire Department plans this open house in conjunction with Fire Prevention Week and is sponsored by the National Fire Protection Association. Fire Departments across the nation have public functions during this week to educate the public about fire safety. The open house was well attended by approximately 300 members of the Running Springs and neighboring communities. Fire engines, ambulances,

rescue equipment, and even the snow cat were on display for children and adults to see, sit in and experience. Firefighters met and talked with the public; fire turnouts were available for children to try on, and of course, Sparky was there. The Running Springs Fire Department works closely with the CHP to plan this event. The CHP held a car show along with displays of equipment and other activities. We would like to extend a special thank you to Cindy Simpson for coming to administer flu shots with donations going to Mountain Helping Hands. These events cannot be successful without all of our public service entities who participate. Thank you to Rim Family Services, American Red cross, San Bernardino County Sheriff, Forest Care, Mountain Rim Fire Sage Council, US Forest Service, and our local CERT members. We hope to see all of you next year.

For more information regarding District functions and activities, please 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 6:00 pm every even month and 10:00 am every odd month on every third Wednesday of the month at our District Office located at 31242 Hilltop Blvd (Highway 18) in Running Springs.

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.