

Entranosa Water News

November 30, 2007

Weather. Most weather sources we've read indicate that the late fall and winter will be much milder than last year and many have called it normal – and we never know what that means and snow is in the air today. We've put some 'winter water tips' on the reverse side – just be careful. We've already had a couple of frozen meters – read the 'tips'.

Hardness. Our pumping has continued to drop, seasonally, and so has the hardness as we're able to take the 'hard' wells offline. Hardness at the office this morning was 15 grains (a grain is approximately 17.1 milligrams per liter), and we expect it to drop a little more and remain in the 10 to 14 grain range throughout the system until March

Drought Monitor. Conditions improved slightly across the State this past week and about 1/3 of the State is listed in an 'abnormally dry' drought level (the lowest level of drought) according to the US Drought Monitor. Last year, approximately 2/3 of the State was in such a condition.

November Consumption. Household demand dropped significantly this month and averaged about 5,400 gallons per dwelling. Last year at this time, the average consumption was 5,680.

Board Meeting. The Board of Directors will meet on Thursday, December 13th this month – a week early, due to Christmas. Should you wish to attend, we simply request that you contact the office so we can make proper arrangements.

ISO Inspection. A couple of years ago, Santa Fe County and Edgewood went through an ISO inspection – which helps determine fire insurance ratings. Bernalillo County is now going through the same process. This past week, and next week, we'll be participating in the inspection. The inspectors anticipate completing their review in the east mountains by the end of the year. The last inspection was in the early 1990s and fire protection has improved tremendously in that time. The fire department has reported checking every hydrant in the east mountains.

Holiday Closure. We will be closed for Christmas on December 24th and 25th (Monday and Tuesday) for Christmas. If you have a water emergency, you may contact our duty man at 604-5935; for other administrative issues, you can call and leave a message on the office voice mail. We hope you have a joyous, and safe, holiday.

Merry Christmas, and May the New Year Bring you Joy.



From all of us at Entranosa



Call Before You Dig

New Mexico One Call

260-1990 or **811**

Entranosa Water & Wastewater Association
281-8700 / 604-5935 (emergency)

Winter Water Tips

Prevention. If you haven't already done so, ya better check around the house and property! Look for exposed pipes or fittings that can freeze - either get them covered, or properly wrapped in heat tape; look for your meter can and make sure the lid is locked in place to reduce the potential of the meter freezing (call us, and we'll set it in position); if you leave your home for the holidays ... leave the heat high enough so that your plumbing won't freeze and break.

Solutions. If you wake up, it is freezing cold, and you don't have water ... your pipes, or the meter, may have frozen. **CALL US**, then go to the kitchen sink and open the faucet *slightly*, just enough to cause rapid drips under normal conditions. This allows a place for the water in your lines to go, and if your lines are frozen, it'll help thaw them out. Under **NO** circumstance should you open your meter can lid and attempt to thaw out the meter with a blow torch (that'll get expensive for you) – CALL - we'll be pleased to check it and, if the meter is frozen, we'll do what is necessary to get it thawed safely. **Again – DO NOT USE A BLOW TORCH ON THE METER! Please! MAKE SURE THE LID TO THE CAN IS CLOSED!!!!**

Winter Driving Tips

Extra weight can be added to the trunk of a car to assist with winter travel – sand bags, bags of salt, or bags of dirt. If you add too much weight, it will affect the handling characteristics of your vehicle, so be careful. A useful guide is: 75 pounds for subcompact cars, 100 pounds for compact and intermediate cars, 150 pounds for a full size car and 200 pounds for a pickup truck.

A common misperception is that lowering the tire pressure in the drive (normally rear) wheels will improve traction. In most situations, it will worsen the handling characteristic of your vehicle, it will accelerate the wear of the tire tread, and may adversely affect the ride. Lowering the rear pressure in deep snow, and moving at a slow speed, is useful ... but otherwise – NOT!

Snow tires provide 51 percent more pull in snow and 28 percent more pull on ice than regular tires. Tire chains provide three times more pull in snow and six times more pull on ice. **However**, your tire chains **MUST** be properly fitted to your tires ... ahead of time ... and it isn't a good idea to run chains on dry pavement.

Keep the gas tank as full as you can during the winter – the more free space in the tank, the greater the amount of condensation that will form, which can lead to frozen fuel lines, diluted fuel, and stalled engines. Fuel filters should be clean and flowing, and you should consider using a fuel additive commonly called 'dry gas', available from automotive parts stores.

Carry a shovel, a cell phone, a non-alcoholic drink (water is always good), and a blanket