

Entranosa Water News

May 31, 2007

Water Consumption in May and Drought Conditions. The ‘average’ residential meter consumed approximately 7,500 gallons this past month – last year, it was about 11,000 gallons. If you believe your meter reading is high – give us a call and we’ll be pleased to come check for a leak. May showed increased usage across the system, and the past week has been very dry, so our production continues to increase. While our drought condition remains “normal”, remember that we live in a highland desert – be aware of how you use your water – use what you need ... no more, and no less.

Rate Increase. We’ve mentioned in many of our past newsletters that the directors on the board were going through a rate review process. They have done so exhaustively. Over the past seventeen years, we’ve increased our rates twice - about 12.7% altogether. We’ve successfully utilized technology, process improvement, and growth to limit those increases. Given the continued financial pressures imposed from human resources, power, and fuel, the directors have concluded that we must now increase our rates on the water portion of your bill by 6%, but the administrative fee of \$15/month will remain the same. Because the administrative fee is staying the same, the actual percentage increase will vary, rising as usage increases. The increase will be incorporated into the billing you’ll receive at the end of July. Also, the directors gave the chief operating officer the authority to set rates paid by water haulers based upon market conditions, which will increase those rates as well. As examples of the impact on individual bills, - if you use 6,000 gallons a month, the amount you pay will increase \$1.32/month; for 10,000 gallons, the amount you pay will increase \$2.27; if you use 15,000 gallons, the amount you pay will increase \$3.72 . Again, however, the total bill will increase only x% as it goes from \$x to \$y. The economies achieved by consistent growth, including infill, will continue to help us defer rate increases that would otherwise be required by inflation – but at some point we’ll need to do this again. Given the size of the published rate hikes for some of our neighboring systems, we’re relatively proud of our achievements. Thank you for your understanding. If you have questions – please call.

Annual Meeting. Our annual meeting will be held on **Tuesday, October 2nd**. The meeting is **ALWAYS** an exciting event (well, at least informative). The annual meeting is an opportunity to hear about the challenges facing the Association, along with some of our accomplishments. Please put that date on your calendar – we’ll hold this years meeting in the Mountain Valley Church – they have excellent facilities and more than sufficient seating.

Rain Barrels. It seems that the monsoon season should appear on schedule in July. Rooftop collection is mandatory for new construction homes in both the County of Santa Fe and the County of Bernalillo, and larger homes and businesses in are required to have cisterns.

Call Before You Dig

New Mexico One Call

260-1990 or 811

Ken Till, an Entranosa member, is the outgoing Wildfire Liaison for the East Mountain Coalition of Neighborhoods. He prepared this informational piece, which was recently distributed by the Coalition in response to dozens of queries they'd received. The threat of fire is ever present in the east mountain area – we hope some of this information may be helpful to you in your planning and preparations for such an event.

Fire Retardant Wood Treatments for exterior of Homes

I have been asked by many homeowners if there were any products that would treat exterior siding of homes that would serve as a fire retardant. Attached is a list of some products that are available. By no means am I endorsing any product, so it is important that you do the necessary research to seek out a product that would fit your needs. Many are expensive but well worth the investment as I've seen many oil treated sided homes that is no more expensive than many of these products. It looks like there are many on the market that are clear coat, non-toxic and they meet both the Class A Fire Rating and the International Building Codes.

Product List:

- Fire-Retardant.biz (Source: www.fire-retardant.biz)
Ph: 1-800-455-5167; 100 State Street; Erie, PA 16507
- Flame Seal; (Source: www.logfinish.com)
Ph: 1-888-208-2248; Contact: info@logfinish.com
Comment: Uses on cedar sided homes as well as log homes. Clear coat. \$124.75 for 5 gallon pail
- Flame Stop Inc.; (Source: <http://flamestop.com>)
Ph: 1-877-397-7867;
- International Fire Resistant Systems, Inc.; (Source: www.firefree.com)
Ph: 1-888-990-3388; 580 Irwin Street, No. 1; San Rafael, Ca. 94901
- Northeast Fireshield, Inc.; (Source: www.northeastfireshield.com)
Ph: (631) 563-0960; 25 Carlough Rd.; Bohemia, NY 11716
Contact: sales@northeastfireshield.com
- Chemco, Inc. (Source: www.chemco.us)
Ph: (360) 366-3500; P.O. Box 875, Ferndale, Washington 98248

This is just a partial list as there are many more on the market. Flame Seal by logfinish looks promising for our situation out here. Many people have expressed interest in such products. Hope this information serves your needs. - Ken