

# Entranosa Water News

September 30, 2008

**Annual Meeting.** Our annual meeting was held on September 23<sup>rd</sup> at the Mountain Valley Church. There were three vacancies to be filled on the board of directors and Steve Varley, Ron Bodo, and Steve Beffort were elected to three year terms. The Association is grateful to Bob Dunlap in running for the board and his willingness to volunteer to help the Association. The next board meeting will be Thursday, October 23<sup>rd</sup>.

**September Consumption.** For the most part, September has been a ‘dry’ month, which isn’t unusual – just more so this year. The average residential consumption this past month was approximately 7,455 gallons, and it was about 6,500 gallons in 2007 and 5,800 gallons in 2006 (following an extremely wet period). If you have questions about your usage, we’ll be pleased to try and help answer them.

**Rate Study.** We have received the completed rate study conducted by Carl Brown & Associates. The Finance Committee is reviewing the content and will make a recommendation to the Board for future consideration.

**Hardness.** We’re entering the transition season, from the demands of summer to those of winter. In that transition, water hardness will be lower. As a system average, hardness is now about 22 grains and is ranging between 15 and 25. It will continue to drop a little each week as the weather cools and demand drops. During January and March, it should run within the range of 12 – 15 grains. For those who are interested (and even if you’re not) - a grain is equal to approximately 17.1 milligrams/liter.

**Hot Water Heaters.** This might be a good month to flush your hot water heater and pull the sacrificial anode to check its condition.

**High Pressure.** Many of you live in high pressure zones where pressure in the water main is in excess of 100 psi. As a routine practice, we install pressure reducing valves (PRVs) on every meter installation, and we have a maintenance program through which those PRVs get replaced ... but every once in a while, one will fail and you may or may not experience ‘symptoms’, which could include the pressure relief valve on your hot water heater ‘lifting’, your toilets running, or you get leaks in your yard (service) line. If you see this – please give us a call. Failure of our PRV isn’t necessarily the cause, but we’re pleased to check it, and we’ve encountered many plumbers who don’t think of it. There isn’t a charge for our visit even if high pressure from the system isn’t the problem – either way, we may be able to help, which may save some money.

**Drought Forecast, and Weather Conditions.** According to the 23 September report of the US Drought Monitor, about 29 percent of the state is in a ‘dry’ condition. At this same time last year, over 40 percent of the state was in a ‘dry’ or higher condition of drought. The NOAA Drought Outlook for New Mexico, through December, is ‘normal’, but we’re seeing several forecasts for a severe winter (cold and wet).

## **Call Before You Dig**

New Mexico One Call

260-1990 or **811**

## ***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**