

Entranosa Water News

October 30, 2009

October Consumption. For the most part, October has been fairly normal – cool and occasionally damp. The average residential consumption this past month was approximately 5,500 gallons – which compares to about 7,775 gallons in 2007 and 5,189 gallons in 2008. If you have questions about your usage, we'll be pleased to try and help answer them.

Annual Meeting. The annual meeting on October 1st was successful – we had a quorum for the election. Rik Thompson, Steve Hicks were elected to three year terms on the board, and Carolyn Freeman was elected to a one year term. We are grateful to John Brault and Gary Orłowski for running and offering their services.

East Mtn Interagency Fire Protection class. They will hold a class on Animal Evacuations on November 17th at the Sandia Ranger District office from 6 pm to 8 pm – space is limited, please contact John Helmich at bhelmich@flash.net for information.

Board Meeting in November. The Board of Directors will meet at 6:15 pm at the Entranosa office on Thursday, November 20th. Members are welcome to attend, we simply ask that you call ahead so we can make proper arrangements of space.

Hardness. Our average hardness is now about 18 grains but it will range between 15 and 25. It will drop systemwide during in November and during December thru 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.

High Pressure. Many of you live in high pressure zones where water main pressure 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 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 any of these – please give us a call. While the PRV may not be the cause, we're pleased to check it, and we've encountered many plumbers who don't think of it. **There is no charge for our visit,** even if high pressure from the system isn't the problem. Regardless, we may be able to help, which may save some money and further aggravation.

Drought Forecast, and Weather Conditions. According to the 27 October report of the US Drought Monitor, 20.8 percent of the State is in a 'dry' condition. Last year at this time it was 19.3 percent. The drought outlook through January is 'normal'. Mid-term weather predictions (three months) are mixed, but some are for a hard winter. We've provided some winter tips on the reverse side of this newsletter.

Office Closing. We'll be closed for the Thanksgiving holiday on November 26th and 27th. We hope you have the opportunity to gather with family and friends,

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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