

Entranosa Water News

November 30, 2009

Weather. Predictions are for a ‘normal’ to ‘wet’ winter. We included Winter Water & Driving tips in our newsletter last month, but have repeated it this month. There are still some new connections that have not backfilled the trench for their service line, and we continue to find lids off of meter cans. While you are responsible for the trench and backfilling, if your lid is not in place – PLEASE call us – we’re pleased to reset them, and you’ll be pleased to have some water after a hard freeze. Frozen meters are bad juju – but PLEASE do not try and thaw them out.

Hardness. We are in the winter mode and while water hardness varies around the system (somewhat), it is averaging between 12 and 15 grains (a grain is approximately 17.1 milligrams per liter). We’ll stay within this range until late March.

November Consumption. Household demand was low this month and averaged about 4,140 gallons per dwelling. In 2008, the residential average was 4,570 gallons and in 2007 it was 5,400 gallons.

Board Meeting. The Board of Directors will hold its monthly meeting on Thursday, December 17th. Should you wish to attend, we simply request that you contact the office so we can make proper arrangements.

Lead and Copper Testing. In compliance with the Safe Drinking Water Act, we conducted a ‘lead and copper’ test in September. The test is the only one that requires a sample from within the home, and its’ purpose is to reflect the level of corrosion in household plumbing (copper lines and for lead lines or lead solder). We’ve done the test frequently – four times in the past six years – and the results continue to improve. We attempt to use the same households every time for comparative purposes. The EPA standard is set for the 90th percentile – we pull 20 samples, so the third highest is the benchmark. The thresholds are 1.3 milligrams per liter for copper and 0.015 milligrams per liter for lead ... our 90th percentile was 0.38 milligrams per liter on copper and 0.006 milligrams per liter on lead. Our highest readings were 0.46 milligrams per liter for copper and 0.008 milligrams per liter for lead. Each participating individual will be contacted with their specific result.

Holiday Closing. We will be closed for Christmas (noon on Dec 24th and all day the 25th) and for New Year on Friday, January 1st. If you have a water emergency, you may contact our duty man at 604-5935 or through the office (281-8700). We hope you have a joyous, and safe, Christmas and New Year.

 **Merry Christmas, and May the New Year Bring you Joy.** 
 **From all of us at Entranosa** 
 **Call Before You Dig – dial 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