

Entranosa Water News

May 28, 2010

Please VOTE! The primary election is June 1st – if you are registered, please vote. There are contested Democrat and Republican races – participate.

Water Hardness. We measured about 26 grains of hardness at the office yesterday morning, which is an increase from April. From now until September, hardness should range between 22 to 33 grains around the system. A ‘grain’ is equal to 17.1 milligrams per liter.

Water Use. The weather in May was generally nice – but don’t you love getting snow in May? Average residential demand was almost 7,100 gallons, but many of you had much higher uses as outdoor applications increased significantly. Please look at the usage graph on your bill – if you think you have a leak, let us know. The average residential use in May of 2009 was 7,800 gallons and about 7,200 gallons in 2008.

Drought Monitor. The US Drought Monitor, which can be viewed at <http://drought.unl.edu/dm/monitor.html> shows our area as having entered an ‘abnormally dry’ drought condition (which isn’t unusual for this time of year) – along with 18% of the state. The projection, through July, remains ‘normal’ for the entire state.

Payments. We’ve made some changes to our billing and payment processing policies in order to: comply with new federal regulations on the security of financial information, reduce costs and improve data accuracy.

- We’ve changed the address to which payments are sent – it is “Dept 2465, PO Box 122465, Dallas, TX 75312-2465” your bill stub has that address, which you can just mail, and if you use a bill payment service, please provide that address to them.
- Credit cards – effective on July 1st, we’ll no longer process automated credit card payments, so if you use that method you’ll need to make a change in June. We’ll still accept credit cards from online payments, walk-in’s, or phone-in’s but there will be a \$3 processing fee for each credit card payment.
- We still offer automatic bank account drafts that are safe, convenient, and no-cost
- In response to member requests, we’re working on an E-bill process by which your monthly bill will be paperless and emailed to you or it will be available online. If you are interested in this service, please contact Lori at the office.

Again – if you pay by credit card, those processes are changing, beginning July 1st of this year.

Wildfires and other Hazards. The NM Homeland Security and Emergency Management office has offered advice on preparing for wildfires and other hazards – you’ll find it on the reverse side. Hope it is helpful.

CALL BEFORE YOU DIG – IT IS THE LAW 260-1990

PREPAREDNESS INFORMATION FOR WILDFIRES & OTHER HAZARDS

John W. Wheeler, Cabinet Secretary, Homeland Security and Emergency Management

CONTACT: Beverly Allen @ 505-231-7197

Make a Plan, Make a Kit

- *Have a 3 day emergency supply kit that includes food and water for all household members including those with special needs such as older adults and children.
- *Be sure to have an emergency supply of all medications in your kit.
- *Don't forget your pets or domestic animals. Make sure they have identification, food and water, any medications you might need. Check with Animal Control and local shelters regarding policy for pet shelter and for domestic animals. Some shelters cannot take animals with their owners.
- *Have an evacuation plan - where to go, what to bring, and routes out of the danger area.
- *Let family members know about your evacuation plan.
- *When you evacuate, close outside vents, windows, doors, pet doors, etc. Close all shutters, blinds & heavy non-combustible window coverings. Remove flammable drapes, shut off the gas.
- *Include a battery powered radio in your kit, or one that winds up for power. There are special NOAA Weather radios that can be obtained so weather hazards can be monitored. Include extra batteries in your kit, including cell phone batteries.
- *Make sure you have copies of important papers - insurance policies, wills, and bank account information.
- * Have an emergency supply of cash.

Wildfires:

- Find out what your wildfire risk is. Learn about the history of wildfire in your area.
- Keep barbecue equipment away from trees when cooking and at least 15 feet from any structure. Keep a fire extinguisher close by. Do not use the grill in high winds.
- Have fire extinguishers in your home for kitchen fires.
- Create a 30 foot safety zone around your house.
- Move shrubs and other landscaping away from the sides of the house.
- Prune branches and shrubs within 15 feet of chimneys and stove pipes.
- Remove tree limbs within 15 feet of the ground.
- Thin a 15 foot space between tree crowns (tops).
- Replace highly flammable vegetation such as pine, juniper, and fir trees with lower growing, less flammable species.
- Cut the lawn often, keeping the grass at a maximum of 2 inches.
- Keep vegetation away from the driveway - automobile exhaust systems can ignite it.
- Clear the area of leaves, brush, pine needles and cones, dead limbs and fallen trees.
- Do not stack fireplace wood next to any structure; keep at least 100 feet away, and uphill.
- Create a second zone at least 100 feet around the house.
- Avoid using bark or woodchip mulch.
- Ask the power company to clear branches away from power lines.
- Store combustible or flammable materials in approved containers and keep them away from the house.

This information is from the NEW MEXICO FAMILY EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS GUIDE from the NM Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management. For a copy, contact us at 505.476.9600 or you can contact your local Emergency Manager. For complete information on line go to www.ready.gov