



Running Springs Water District May 2023 Newsletter



The Running Springs Water District is providing this Newsletter to our customers as part of our public outreach effort to share information regarding the District's ongoing activities, operations, and services.

Running Springs Fire Department Update

During the major Winter Storms of February and March 2023, your Running Springs Firefighters and staff performed the following services:

- Fielded and triaged hundreds of calls for assistance through 911, social media and our department business phones.
- Responded to over 134 calls for assistance beyond our normal daily average, including 49 calls that required the use of our specialized "Snow Cat" to provide service and rescue and assist Running Springs residents.
- Established and staffed a prescription drug pickup and delivery service that not only served Running Springs residents, but the residents of Green Valley Lake, Arrowbear Lake and Smiley Park.
- Assisted in the establishment and opening of an Evacuation Center at Charles Hoffman Elementary School and a Food Bank at Calvary Chapel Church. Collected food donations at the fire station and distributed them to residents, the Evacuation Center, and Food Bank.

The Running Springs Fire Department – “Service to The Community” We Are Here For You!

In October 1962, fire protection became the second service provided for the Running Springs community by the District at a local level. Until that time, fire protection for the area had been provided by an all-volunteer fire department comprised of a group of concerned citizens. As the needs of the community outgrew the ability of the volunteer fire department to provide and maintain this service, there was a recognized need for change. Because of the increased community need, a comprehensive study was conducted to determine the best method of providing fire protection. The study concluded that the District had the authority and the ability to provide fire protection services. Primarily, it was determined this would be the most cost-effective alternative, while at the same time, would allow local control by an already established locally elected governmental agency.

While the fundamental purpose of the District's Fire Department is the protection of life and property from fire, several operational functions are provided by the Fire Department as well. These functions include a variety of public assistance services, field emergency medical care services, ambulance transportation services, hazard abatement, community education and awareness programs. Of the services provided, the greatest public emphasis and need has been emergency medical care and ambulance transportation.

Over the years, medical aid responses have grown to the point where they significantly outnumber fire related responses. To provide better service and better meet the needs of the community, in September 1978 the District's Fire Department implemented advanced life support (ALS or paramedics) into its medical care services. With the implementation of advanced life support services, the District's Fire Department became the first fire agency in the San Bernardino Mountains to provide a 24-hour continuous paramedic program and to enhance its emergency medical care system, the District's Board of Directors authorized the Fire Department to provide ambulance transportation services. Improved patient care, public need and economics were the primary reasons for the Director's authorization of this additional service. The ambulance service boundary includes Running Springs, Smiley Park, Arrowbear, Green Valley Lake, Snow Valley and along State Highway 18 to Lake View Point. The ambulance coverage also includes State Highway 330 to City Creek Ranger Station. The Running Springs Fire Department operates from two local fire stations.

The existing Running Springs Fire Department Fire Availability Fee is a Special Tax that owners of developed property in the Running Springs Water District service area pay to help fund the **locally controlled** operation of the Running Springs Fire Department. The voters approved this \$65 per year fee which was put into effect on March 11, 1980 by Ordinance No. 9. This fee has never increased and the Running Springs Fire Department costs to operate at the current level of service continue to

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increase. The District Board of Directors and staff invite and encourage members of the community to get involved and spread the word that we are searching for creative ideas and suggestions that will help to continue funding the locally controlled Running Springs Fire Department at the appropriate level of service to the community.

Annual Weed Abatement

The Running Springs Fire Department will begin their inspections for the annual weed abatement program in June 2023. Please do your part in ensuring that your property has met the requirements of the Fire Department. You can obtain additional information regarding guidelines for weed abatement at www.runningspringsfd.org or by calling 909-867-2630.

Water & Sewer Availability Billing

Just as a reminder, the District's annual Water and Sewer Availability billing for unimproved property will be mailed out the beginning of May 2023 and will be due no later than July 1, 2023. If payment is not received by July 1, 2023, the delinquent bills will be placed on the San Bernardino County property tax roll.

Fats, Oils and Grease (FOG)



Grease in sewer pipes causes sewer maintenance problems for property owners and the District. Never put grease, oil or fatty foods in your sink, drain or toilet and try to use your garbage disposal less.

Please Think Before You Flush!

Basically, the only thing you should ever flush down a toilet is human waste (urine and feces) and toilet paper. Here is a list of some things to keep out of the toilet:

- automotive fluids
- baby wipes & disposable diapers
- bandages & bandage wrappings
- cleaning wipes of any kind
- condoms
- cotton balls & swabs

- facial tissue
- mini or maxi pads
- paint, solvents, sealants & thinners
- poisons & hazardous waste
- sanitary napkins
- tampons & tampon applicators
- unused medications

Please visit the District's website at:

<http://www.runningspringswaterdistrict.com/>
for more information on water conservation.

Pay your water and sewer bill online and view account information

The District has implemented a new utility billing system and customers can now go online to view their account information. Our new system allows customers to view their transaction history including their current balance due, make payments, view their water usage history data for the previous two years, and view payment arrangements, contracts and deposits associated with their account. Customers are able to manage multiple accounts in one convenient location. Use the following web address to register:

<http://www.runningspringswaterdistrict.com>

Click on the link to "PAY MY UTILITY BILL"
Click "Quick Pay" or "Sign in or sign up"

For more information regarding District functions and activities, please visit the District's websites at:

www.runningspringswaterdistrict.com
www.runningspringsfd.org

or contact the District office by phone at 909-867-2766, or by mail at P.O. Box 2206, Running Springs, CA, 92382. In addition, we hold public Board Meetings at 9:00 a.m. on every third Wednesday of the month at our District Office located at 31242 Hilltop Blvd. (Highway 18) in Running Springs. Members of the public are always invited and encouraged to attend these meetings.

Please provide your email address on your next bill if you would like to receive District information by email.

"The Mission of the Running Springs Water District is to provide water, fire, emergency medical service, sewer, and other beneficial services to the community: The goal of the District shall be to do so with the highest level of integrity and ethical principles and in the most efficient and cost-effective manner possible."