

Running Springs Water District November 2012 District Newsletter

We are providing this Newsletter to our customers in an effort to share information regarding the District's ongoing activities, operations and services.

REMINDER TO WATER CUSTOMERS – WINTERIZE YOUR HOME OR CABIN TO AVOID CATASTROPHIC WATER LOSS AND COSTLY REPAIRS

Is your home ready for the approaching cold winter weather? Freeze-related water leaks have been known to waste thousands of gallons of water and in the past have increased some monthly water bills to over \$3,000. Some important steps to take to avoid frozen/broken pipes and costly repairs include: checking your plumbing to ensure it is in good operating condition, protect all exposed piping, install a customer shut-off valve (CSOV), safeguard your CSOV from unauthorized use and vandalism, seal off access doors, air vents and cracks and instruct guests that may use your home about the proper use of the CSOV.

Prevention of frozen/broken pipes can be accomplished by checking all of your water lines from the meter to the house, to be sure there are no exposed lines or fixtures. The pipes should be sufficiently insulated to prevent them from freezing. Be sure to disconnect and drain all outdoor hoses. Turning off your CSOV is an important factor in preventing excessive water leaks from frozen/broken pipes when you are away from your home or cabin in the winter. If you rely on natural gas or electricity for heat to prevent your water lines from freezing, be aware that these utilities can be interrupted

especially during storms or emergencies and/or your property may be without heat for an extended period of time.

It is the responsibility of each property owner and resident to protect their property from freezing weather and to maintain the water lines on their property. We recommend that the water lines, hot water heater and fixtures be inspected on a regular basis. If you cannot make it up to your property, please call the District and request to have your meter shut off. If you do have a water emergency, please contact the District for assistance at (909) 867-2340.

California Fire Prevention Fee

You may have received a bill for the California Fire Prevention Fee by now. This fee is not related to or administered by the Running Springs Fire Department. For more information on the California Fire Prevention Fee please visit: <http://www.firepreventionfee.org>.

Carbon Monoxide Poisoning

Roughly 30 to 40 people die annually in California from exposure to Carbon Monoxide gas. As of July 1, 2011 all single-family dwellings were required to have Carbon Monoxide detectors installed and on January 1, 2013 all multi-family dwellings will be required to have Carbon Monoxide detectors installed. Prevention

measures to avoid Carbon Monoxide poisoning are:

*Install the Carbon Monoxide detectors high up outside each sleeping area.

*Ensure Carbon Monoxide detectors are installed and working properly.

*Do not idle your car in your garage even for short periods of time.

*Never use gas-powered or charcoal grills indoors.

*Never ignore the Carbon Monoxide poisoning symptoms of dizziness, nausea, headaches and sudden sleepiness. Get out of your home immediately and into fresh air, then call 911.

Fire Safety for Homes during the Winter Months

Fireplaces and wood burning stoves are a very common heat sources in mountain homes. Potential fire hazards can be avoided by paying careful attention to safety. When using a wood burning stove, it should be Underwriters Laboratories (UL) listed, be made of good quality, solid construction and design. Do not use flammable liquids to start or accelerate any fire. Always keep a glass or metal screen in front of the fireplace to prevent any sparks or embers from escaping. Before you call it a night, be sure to double check that the fire is out and NEVER close your damper with hot ashes in the fireplace. When using a furnace as a heat source, it is important to have your

furnace inspected to ensure it is in proper working condition. Inspect the walls and ceiling near the furnace and along the chimney line and if the wall is hot or discolored, additional insulation may be required. Keep trash and other combustibles away from the heating system. It is important to leave furnace repairs to qualified specialists.

Remember never to use a range or an oven as an alternate heating source. Not only is it a safety hazard, it can be a source of potentially toxic fumes. Avoid using electric space heaters in the bathrooms or other areas where they may come into contact with water. Be sure that every level of your home has a working smoke detector. Be sure to clean and inspect it monthly and to change the batteries semi-annually.

For more information regarding District functions and activities, please visit the District's website at: (www.runningsspringswaterdistrict.com) 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 am on every third Wednesday of the odd numbered months and at 6:00 pm on the third Wednesday of the even numbered months at our District Office located at 31242 Hilltop Blvd (Highway 18) in Running Springs.

"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."