

Kitsap Connection

For customers of Kitsap PUD's drinking water utility September/October 2017

The Separation is in the Preparation

The headline comes from Russell Wilson. He is describing the work done in advance of the actual event. In his case, a football game. In our case? How about an earthquake? September is National Preparedness Month, a time to take stock of our emergency preparedness and to shore up areas in which it might be lacking. I recently spent a tense week watching Hurricane Irma churn toward relatives in Tampa, Florida. In one of the newscasts, a resident said, "The nice thing about hurricanes is that you have time to prepare." For a week, one could watch the satellite update; all the while stocking up on provisions and installing hurricane shutters. That's "the nice thing about hurricanes". Unfortunately, our primary threat—earthquakes—isn't quite so nice. There are no advance warnings, no week-long tracking indicating where and when they are likely to hit. When it hits, the separation will be in the preparation: those who are prepared will weather the event better than those who aren't. We want you to be one of the former. Please take this opportunity, National Preparedness Month, to provision your home for an emergency. This newsletter will cover some basic tenets of emergency preparedness and provide links to additional information. Thank you all, in advance, for preparing your home and your family. In so doing you help prepare and strengthen our entire community.



National Preparedness Month

"You are the help until help arrives." So says material put out by FEMA for National Preparedness Month. It is a reminder that, in the event of a major emergency, "help" could be days, or even weeks, away. In the time immediately after a disaster, people will—in many cases—have to fend for themselves. A major earthquake could disrupt utilities, roads and—really—all infrastructure that supports our communities. It is important that people

prepare for this by stocking some basic emergency supplies. Many experts recommend having enough food and water to last one week. Other important items include batteries, a first aid kit and—if you have pets—pet food. Provisioning, however, is just one part of the preparation. Make a plan, ensure your family knows it. Practice it. Provision, plan, practice. For tips and other helpful material visit FEMA's webpage at www.ready.gov.

Kitsap PUD's Emergency Response Plan

Kitsap PUD recently updated its Emergency Response Plan. This plan dictates how we will respond to everything from small emergencies, like water main breaks, to larger emergencies, like a catastrophic earthquake. The plan needs periodic updating as Kitsap PUD adds water systems and as key contact information changes. Because Kitsap PUD operates water systems all over Kitsap

County, we have assigned geographic areas of responsibility to staff who live in those areas. We anticipate staff will deploy from home to those water systems closest to them. This will be to triage and assess damages. Once damage has been assessed, a plan for recovery will be developed. Generally, we will prioritize recovery efforts to affect the most number of people. In other words, we will

attempt to restore service to our larger water systems first. This, though, could slide down the priority scale should we have to assist in restoring service to regionally important facilities, like hospitals. It is important that customers and communities understand this and prepare to meet their own needs while we work to restore service to the broader community.

Emergency Generators

Just as we must prioritize emergency response to affect the most people, so must we prioritize our emergency preparation to affect the most people. With this, many of our largest, most important, source wells are equipped with emergency power sources (generators). Small, Group B water systems; however, are not usually outfitted with onsite emergency power. For those systems, Kitsap PUD has several mobile generators that—in the event of extended outages—we can deploy to, hopefully, keep customers in water. Those on Group B systems

may petition Kitsap PUD to install an on site, auto-start, generator. The process requires 80% approval by the system's users who, then, share the cost of the project. Costs are amortized over a period of time and charges appear as a surcharge on customers' bills. Should KPUD receive a petition for emergency power, we will work it into our capital improvement schedule as time permits. For more information, please visit our website at www.kpud.org/generators.php.

Water Year 2017. Very wet, very dry.

Water year 2017, which runs from October 1 2016 to September 31 2017, has been one of the wettest AND one of the driest on record. Wait, what? Over the course of the winter, Kitsap received higher than normal precipitation totals. Our Holly rain station has received almost 112 inches since last October! Further, the manner in which this rain came was very beneficial to our groundwater resources: whereas last year we experienced large, dumping, events, this year rain came more in a slow,

steady manner. This is more conducive to recharge. As a result, our streams maintained good flows deep into summer, a summer otherwise marked by a record setting dry spell. Kitsap went over 80 days without any significant rainfall. Thankfully, this dry streak appears over as, this week, rain has returned. If we, in fact, are entering another long, wet winter we will hope it is like the last; recharging to our groundwater supplies. That is the silver lining to what might be eight months of gray. Sigh.

Typical Items for Emergency Preparedness Kits

FEMA recommends the following items be included in your emergency supplies:

Water: One gallon per person per day for drinking and sanitation.

Food: At least a three day supply of non-perishable food items. Be sure to have a can opener on hand if your kit contains canned goods.

Battery powered or hand-crank radio.

Flashlight. Be sure to include extra batteries for the radio and flashlight.

First Aid kit.

A whistle to signal for help.

Matches in a waterproof container.

Prescription medications and eyeglasses.

Fire extinguisher.

Cash. Customers should expect that ATMS and banks might be out of service for a period of time.

Feminine supplies and other personal hygiene products.

Pet food and supplies.

Books, games and puzzles to keep children occupied.

Wet wipes, plastic garbage bags and ties for personal sanitation.

For more information visit: www.ready.gov.

Kitsap PUD

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2017 Water Rates

2017 Rates shown below are for a typical residential service. Remember: KPUD bills on a bi-monthly basis.

Basic Service Charge

\$24.25 (monthly)

\$48.50 (per 2-month billing)

Commodity Charge

Tier 1 (0-1,400 cubic feet)

\$1.15 per 100 cubic feet*

Tier 2 (1,401—2,400 cubic feet)

\$1.55 per 100 cubic feet

Tier 3 (2,401—4,000 cubic feet)

\$2.40 per 100 cubic feet

Tier 4 (over 4,000 cubic feet)

\$5.50 per 100 cubic feet

*100 cubic feet equals 748 gallons

Kitsap Water Trivia

I recently received a call from a homeowner who found a worm in their toilet. The toilet was used infrequently and the customer was concerned this worm might have come from the drinking water system. In doing a bit of research I found this is not as uncommon an occurrence as one might think. The offending worm was, more than likely, an earthworm. How did it get into the toilet? Apparently earthworms (There are approximately 2,700 species. Who knew?) get into the house via shoes or pets. Once inside they seek out a water source, oftentimes ending up in a toilet.