



Water Lines

BIRCH BAY WATER AND SEWER DISTRICT
SERVING THE GREATER BIRCH BAY AREA SINCE 1968

SUMMER | NEWSLETTER | 2016

Cascadia Rising Earthquake Preparedness

The District will be participating in the area-wide “Cascadia Rising” earthquake drill during the week of June 6-10. You may observe emergency response vehicles and extra activity in the area, checking for damage, simulating outages, operating water main valves, and setting up temporary hoses and pumps.

The Cascadia Rising is a coordinated emergency response exercise among agencies in preparation for an earthquake as large as magnitude 9.0 and corresponding tsunamis along the Cascadia Subduction Zone, which spans from Northern California to Southern British Columbia. Scientific evidence indicates that a magnitude 8.0-9.0 earthquake occurs along the 800-mile long fault on average once every 200 to 500 years. The last major earthquake and tsunami along the fault occurred over 300 years ago in 1700.

In the event of an earthquake, the District’s first priority will be to protect the water system and conserve water (stop leaks). This may require immediate isolation of large water mains to fix broken pipes and cause temporary water outages. The District will try to set up message boards providing critical notifications for area residents.



Being prepared at home can help you better cope during a natural disaster and make it easier for the District to restore lost facilities. Below are some helpful tips of what to do in case of a natural disaster.

What You Can Do in a Natural Disaster:

1. **BE PREPARED** - Assume help will not be available for several days. Have extra water, batteries, flashlight, food, first aid kit, radio and other emergency supplies ready.
2. **CONSERVE! MAKE IT LAST** - Only use as much water as necessary. While the District has sufficient storage capacity for normal use, reservoirs may be depleted in an extremely short period of time due to large main breaks or reservoir damage. It may take days, weeks or even months to get water mains and major supply lines back in service
3. **BOIL WATER** - unless you hear otherwise.
4. **SEEK HIGHER GROUND** - a tsunami will most likely result from an earthquake.
5. **STAY TUNED** - listen to local radio or TV if possible for further updates and information

Backflow required for Lawn Irrigation Systems

The District is finding a lot of irrigation systems within its service boundaries that are not documented. All irrigation systems within the District are required to be documented and confirmed that the system has an approved backflow assembly installed.



All irrigation systems are considered moderate to high risk cross connection depending on their exposure to lawn chemicals and/or fertilizers. It is important to have a backflow assembly installed to prevent any such hazardous contamination entering back into the drinking water system.

If you think you have an undocumented residential irrigation system, check to confirm that it has a backflow assembly and notify the District. Your system must be tested annually and results sent to the District by July.

For more information or questions, please contact Mike Trueblood by phone at 360-371-7100 or by email at lab@bbwsd.com

REMINDER! Backflow Testing Results Due In July

The District is requiring that all cross control assemblies be tested by July 2016 by a District approved backflow assembly tester. Results from the test are to be forwarded to District Sewer Operator, Mike Trueblood. Reminders will be sent out in August to owners of backflow assemblies whose test results are overdue. The District has an approved backflow tester list that can be picked up at the District Office or by contacting Mike Trueblood at lab@bbwsd.com.

CROSS CONNECTION - point in a plumbing system where the potable water supply is connected to a non-potable source.

BACKFLOW - is the unwanted flow of non-potable substances back into the consumer's plumbing system and/or public water system.

Voluntary Watering Schedule June 1 - Sept. 15

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
ODD	No Watering	EVEN	ODD	EVEN	ODD	EVEN

Effective June 1st through September 15th, the District will again be implementing its voluntary watering schedule to help manage our water supply during the summer months. Residents with odd numbered street addresses may water on Wednesdays, Fridays and Sundays. Residents with even numbered street addresses may water on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays. Mondays are non-watering days to allow the District's reservoirs to recharge after the weekend. For more information visit www.bbwsd.com or contact the District at 360-371-7100.



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