



Thurston PUD Newsletter

We are committed to providing safe, reliable, affordable, and sustainable water services to our customers.

May 2024

Happy Drinking Water Week!



Drinking Water Week 2024

May 5-11, 2024

Drinking Water Week takes place May 5-11 this year! During this week, we celebrate the value of clean, safe water, the importance of water infrastructure, and the critical role of water professionals.

History

In 1988, American Water Works Association (AWWA) brought Drinking Water Week to the attention of the U.S. Government and formed a coalition along with the League of Women Voters, the Association of State Drinking Water Administrators and the US Environmental Protection Agency.

Rep. Robert Roe and Sen. Dennis DeConcini subsequently sponsored a resolution to name the first week of May as Drinking Water Week, and the week-long observance was declared in a joint congressional resolution signed by then President Ronald Reagan.

Celebration Ideas

During Drinking Water Week, we honor the engineers, scientists and all water professionals dedicated to our water's safety. Their expertise and innovation ensure every drop we consume is clean and safe. Let's celebrate their commitment to our health and well-being by giving them our thanks! The next time you see our Field Crew out performing routine maintenance, feel free to give them a shout out for their hard work.

This Drinking Water Week, take the opportunity to learn about your local drinking water. Discover its journey from its source to your faucet, and the efforts that go into ensuring safety and high quality. Understanding our water is the first step to conserving and protecting it. Here at Thurston PUD, all of our water is sourced from the ground. Our September 2023 Newsletter featured a front page article on "What Does It Take To Get Water To Your Home?" with an informative graphic displaying an example of a water distribution system. To reread that article, or any others, you can visit our webpage at <http://www.thurstonpud.org/pud-news-newsletters.htm> and select the date of the newsletter you want to read.

For a fun Drinking Water Week activity, check out Page 4 of this newsletter!

Thurston PUD Commissioners

District 1

Linda Oosterman

District 2


Russell E. Olsen

District 3

Chris Stearns

Important Messages

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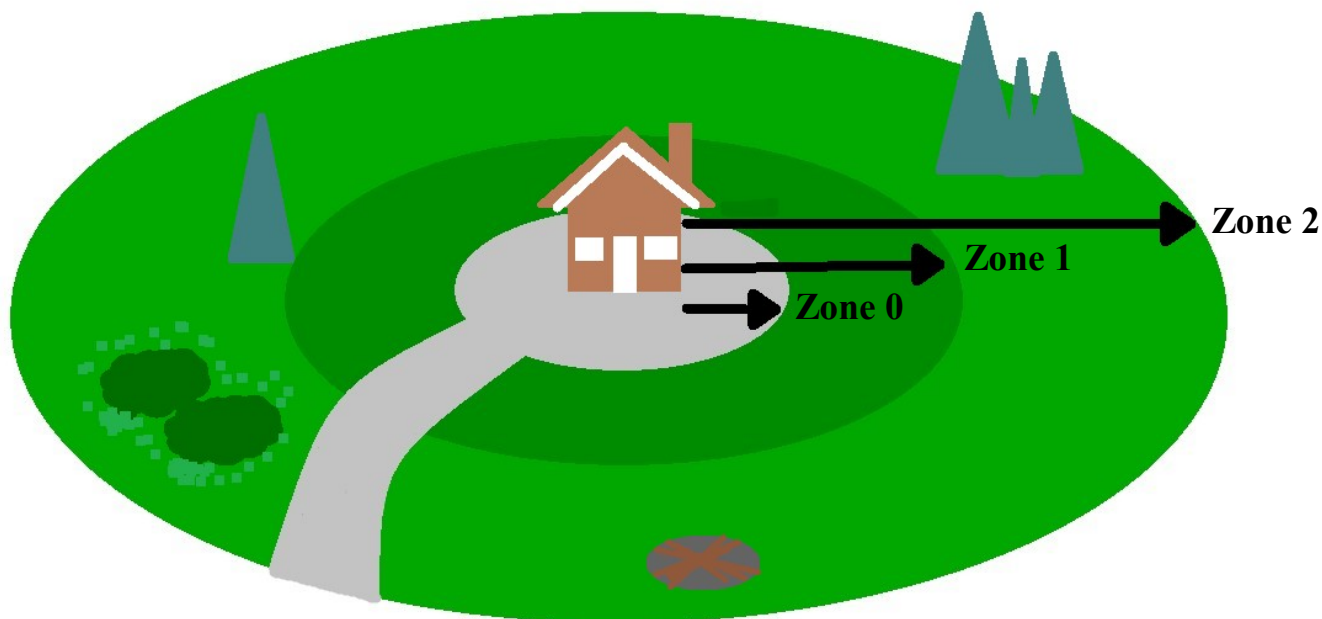
Wildfire Safety - How to Create a Defensible Space

The wildfire season in Washington usually begins in early July and culminates in early October when a regular supply of rain returns to the Northwest. However, we are increasingly seeing the wildfire season start earlier than ever before. The 2023 Washington wildfire season officially began in March 2023, and by the end of the season over 400 homes were damaged by Washington fires.

How can you defend your home against wildfires? You can start your defense by creating a safe perimeter, or buffer area, between your property and the surrounding area. You can do this in zones, and it will assist in slowing or stopping wildfire spread as well as gives firefighters a safer area to defend your property.

Protect your property's perimeter with zone by zone actions:

Zone No.	Range	Zone Name	Action to Take
Zone 0	0-5 Feet from home	Immediate Zone: Ember Resistant Zone	Remove combustible litter on roofs and gutters and trim tree branches that overhang the roof and chimney. Clear dead weeds, grass, and debris. Relocate fuel and vehicles away from this zone to reduce fire risk.
Zone 1	5-30 Feet from home	Intermediate Zone: Lean, Clean, and Green Zone	Prune and remove dead and dying branches from individual and well-spaced clumps of trees and shrubs. Remove dead leaves and pine needles from your yard.
Zone 2	30-100 Feet from home	Extended Zone: Reduce Fuel Zone	Place woodpiles at least 30 feet from the building and store the wood in a vegetation-free zone such as a graveled area. Reduce fuels by thinning and pruning vegetation horizontally and vertically.



For more information on wildfire safety and how to create a defensible space, please visit <https://wildfireready.dnr.wa.gov/> and <https://readyforwildfire.org/prepare-for-wildfire/defensible-space/>.

Water Meter Replacements Funded by Capital Budget

Lately, the Thurston PUD Field Crew have been swapping out aging water meters with new ones to ensure our equipment continues to operate accurately. While they are out in the field, they have had several customers approach them with questions about the work they are completing. This article aims to answer some of the frequently asked questions our crew is receiving.

Thurston PUD owns 279 water systems that were all built in different years. That means that the parts that make up the water systems vary in age. Some of our water systems have existing water meters that are nearing the end of their usable life. For those aging water meters, we identify them in our Asset Management Plans (AMP) and will change them out with a new meter based on the AMP's projections. When a meter is swapped out due to being identified in the water system's AMP, there is no added cost our customer's bill. The cost for the meter is considered a capital improvement to the water system and paid for through our Capital Budget funded by the existing Capital Surcharge paid by all Thurston PUD customers.



For more information on Thurston PUD's 2024 budgets, please visit our website at <http://www.thurstonpud.org/our-rates.htm>. If you have any questions, please contact our office at (360) 357-8783, toll-free at (866) 357-8783, or by email at PUDCustomerService@thurstonpud.org.

Employee Spotlight—Blake Nylund



Blake Nylund,
Planning and
Compliance Specialist

One of the most recent hires at the PUD is Blake Nylund, our Planning and Compliance Specialist. Blake has seamlessly integrated into our team and brought a wealth of knowledge with him. He has over 20 years of experience working for public water purveyors in western and eastern Washington and holds the highest DOH - Office of Drinking water certification as a Water Distribution Manager 4!

Blake's passions outside of water include playing guitar and keyboards, salmon fishing and crabbing in the Puget Sound, and treasure hunting with metal detectors on Washington and Oregon beaches with his 11 year old daughter.

Something Blake likes about working at the PUD is, "Potable drinking water is a precious resource and a terrible thing to waste. I have found that Thurston PUD staff are an extremely dedicated and caring bunch of people." Thanks, Blake!

Filling a Pool?

Summer is around the corner! In order to prepare for higher temperatures and summer fun, customers should get a head start on filling their pools. If you have a pool that you'd like to fill, please keep a few things in mind:

- ◆ For your water system, peak demand times may vary, but usually customers are using the most water in the morning (when getting ready for work) and in the evening (when returning from work). We recommend filling your pool *outside of* peak demand times.
- ◆ It will take several hours to fill a 5,000-gallon pool with a ½-inch garden hose.
- ◆ Filling a 5,000-gallon pool will add approximately 668 cubic feet (cf) to your monthly consumption total which will also increase your consumption charge for the month.

Based on the information above, we suggest filling your pool in increments over a few days during off-peak demand times. This will help prevent possible outages if your water system's well cannot keep up with demand; this could also help prevent certain water quality issues caused by an overworked water system.

