



Public Utility District No. 1
of Thurston County

FEBRUARY 2015 NEWSLETTER



Commissioner's Corner

By Linda Oosterman, District 1

Earthquake Preparedness

The time to prepare for an earthquake is well before the event. During this time you can calmly create lists of the supplies you need to gather, watch for good prices on these items and take time to think through the emergency actions your family can take. The best way to start your personal earthquake preparedness checklist is to start with the list below and view the lists made available from the American Red Cross or the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and combine them and others to create a customized list that suits your family's needs specifically.

EARTHQUAKE PREPAREDNESS KIT



Below is an abridged checklist. For more info, please visit <http://tinyurl.com/lyfuhgbz> for a complete list and tips.

SERENO
GROUP

WATER

- 1 gallon / person / day
change every 6 months

FOOD

- Canned meats, soups, fruits & vegetables
- Dry milk & juice drinks
- Sugar, salt & pepper
- High energy foods: peanut butter, jelly, crackers, granola bars & trail mix
- Comfort foods: cookies, candy, instant coffee, tea
- Vitamins
- Special needs: infants, special diet, pet food

*Avoid foods like rice and pasta that require more water to prepare.
Restock 1 / year*

FIRST AID

- Band-aids
- Gauze
- Roller bandages
- Scissors
- Antiseptic
- Soap/anti-bacterial
- Moist towlettes
- Petroleum jelly
- Pain reliever
- Other non-prescription medications
- Sunscreen
- Latex gloves
- Tweezers
- Thermometer
- Safety pins

SUPPLIES

- Paper plates & napkins
- Plastic utensils
- Flashlight
- Battery powered radio
- Batteries
- Cash
- Can opener
- Tape
- Matches in waterproof container
- Foil
- Tape
- Paper & pencil
- Needle & thread
- Wrench
- Pliers
- Signal flare
- Ponchos
- Blankets or sleeping bags/warm clothes

SANITARY

- Toilet paper
- Garbage bags
- Soap
- Feminine supplies
- Plastic bucket
- Disinfectant
- Household bleach

DOCUMENT COPIES

- Will/insurance
 - Passport/social security cards
 - Immunization records
 - Bank account #'s
 - Credit card #'s
 - Contracts/Stocks
- Best to store these items in a water proof zip lock bag.*

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2014 Report to Our Customers

The PUD completed a Customer Survey in 2014. The results were highlighted in the November 2014 Newsletter that can be accessed on the PUD's web site at: <http://www.thurstonpud.org/docs/newsletters/newsletter-201411.pdf>. A drawing was held in which three (3) customers who participated were given a \$50 credit toward future water bills.

Hazard Mitigation Planning: The PUD is participating in a multi-jurisdictional effort led by the Thurston Regional Planning Council to update the Hazard Mitigation Plan in 2014-2015. This will enable the PUD to qualify to request grant funding.

Strategic Plan: The PUD Commissioners updated their Strategic Plan. A link to it is posted on the front page of the PUD's web site www.thurstonpud.org.

Tanglewilde-Thompson Place Water System:

Water Rights: Additional water rights were secured to meet the PUD's largest water system's needs for at least the next twenty years.

Olympia Water Contract: The PUD gave notice to the City of Olympia that it would terminate its purchased water contract with the City on June 1, 2015. This results in savings of \$66,000 for the annual base rate paid to the City of Olympia, plus additional costs for any water used. The PUD is working on a mutual aid agreement with the City.

Water Rates: The PUD Commissioners eliminated the higher base rate for Tanglewilde-Thompson Place water customers, approximately \$1.50 a month in savings to these customers.

General Facility Charge (GFC) Reduction. The GFC, which is a charge levied on new customers to the Tanglewilde-Thompson Place water system was lowered from \$4,700 to \$3,000.

Elimination of Surcharges Levied on PUD Owned Water Systems: The PUD Commissioners, during the 2014 budget process eliminated monthly surcharges on January 1, 2015 that had been in place on the **Cornerstone Estates, Pederson Place, Crescent Park and Terry Lane** water systems.

2015 Budget and Implementation of the Asset Management Plan: All PUD owned water systems have been reviewed for infrastructure that must be replaced in the next 80 years. The PUD had public meetings in Thurston, Pierce and Lewis Counties over the summer. A full cost of service rate study was conducted in 2014 and as part of this process a surcharge was implemented beginning in 2015 of \$1.00 a month for residential customers with 5/8" meters, with the rate higher on larger meter sizes. These funds will be placed in an account used only for capital improvements.

Acquisition of New Water Systems. In 2014, the PUD acquired five new water systems totaling 306 connections. Three of these systems were water systems owned by the *Swift Family Trust* totaling 271 connections: the Horsfall, Hawk Acres and Ridgewood water systems. We also added two smaller systems, the Webster Hill and Country Meadows East 2. Adding more systems helps spread the fixed costs of the PUD over more connections providing a better economy of scale, and helps keep costs lower for all of our customers.

Telecommunications: The PUD began investigating the potential to provide wholesale telecommunications services and may enter into some cooperative projects in 2015. No monies from the water fund will be used to support telecommunications.

Water Conservation: Thirteen (13), \$50 Toilet Rebates were provided to customers in 2014.

Major Projects and System Repairs & Upgrades: See Website Front Page for Link