

Hurricane Season - Be Prepared

We are at the beginning of the 2011 hurricane season. All residents are encouraged to become aware of the steps to take if a hurricane begins a path to our area. The National Hurricane Center, area news media and civil defense agencies will provide information and advice for residents in the upper Texas coast region. Issues within Bentwater will be addressed by the POA and MUD 18. MUD 18's role focuses on potential problems related to water supply, sewage handling, garbage pickup and storm water drainage. Prior to the start of the hurricane season, MUD 18 conducted inspections of all major storm drainage areas to ensure they were clear of any blocking debris. In recent years natural gas back-up generators have been installed on seventeen lift stations to provide sewer service during an extended power outage. Access to diesel fuel has been arranged to keep equipment at the water plant operating. Residents should understand the importance of minimizing use of water, minimizing the production of waste water and other helpful actions during a large storm event with an extended electrical power outage. Homeowner hurricane information is being included with your June billing. This information is also available on our website at www.mcmud18.com.



Reminder - Mild Drought Conditions in Effect

As announced in our May newsletter, MUD 18's Drought Contingency Plan specifies that ***a MILD DROUGHT Condition is in effect as of June 1 and will stay in effect until September 30. During this time all customers are asked to voluntarily reduce water usage.*** The objective of this stage of our plan is to avoid exceeding the "safe operating condition" of our wells -- defined to be no more than to be no more than sixteen (16) hours per day run time per well. This definition was established using actual operating data. Without voluntary conservation we could reach 16 hours run time of our wells per day by early summer. If our water supply facilities reach or exceed 90% of the safe operating conditions, mandatory water usage restrictions will be necessary.



With everyone's attention to conservation, we hope to avoid mandatory restrictions. Your Mud Board is recommending that homeowners voluntarily use the following practices that would become mandatory if we reach Stage 2 of the District's Drought Contingency Plan:

1. Even-numbered addresses run irrigation systems only on Sundays and Thursdays
2. Odd-numbered addresses run irrigation systems only on Wednesdays and Saturdays
3. Refrain from any outdoor use between the hours of 6AM and 10AM and between the hours of 6PM and midnight.
4. Outdoor use of water by a hand held hose or bucket may be done on any day of the week.

With no rain in the forecast at the time of this newsletter, our lawn and landscaped areas are being stressed more than usual. These conditions make it even more critical that homeowners water wisely. Improper watering is inefficient and does not benefit our lawns. Over the last 2 months MUD 18 provided free irrigation system evaluations to the first 100 homeowners who signed up. These evaluations were offered based on the following key learnings from the Bentwater Water Wise Program that studied the water use in 8 pilot homes:

1. An irrigation system in good working order is a necessary condition to water wisely. 92% of the irrigation systems evaluated in our offer needed repairs and/or adjustments. Is your irrigation system in good working order?

- The irrigation system controller should be set to achieve a target amount of water - an average not to exceed 1 inch per week across all zones. Many homeowners have found that running their systems less frequently, but for longer periods of time is more effective to keeping the lawns sufficiently watered. Do you have a strategy for operating your irrigation system that efficiently provides a target amount of water? You can learn how to do this by visiting www.bentwatercivic.com and following the Water Wise menu to the irrigation calculator.

Recycle Update:

Even though the quantity of recycled material in Bentwater is up significantly from last year, regular trash has not dropped sufficiently at this point to go to one regular trash pickup a week. We are encouraged that the recycling trend is going up -- April was a strong month for increase in recycling. One regular trash pick-up a week is expected to result in cost savings that will be passed on the homeowners. Recycling helps the environment and our pocket books. We appreciate everyone's support to maximize our participation.



Sign-up for E-Blasts: If you are not receiving our E-Blasts, you are missing out on timely information. Go to our website www.mcmud18.com and give us your email address. Your address will not be shared with anyone and you can unsubscribe at any time.



Need to report a Problem? Don't assume the problem has already been identified or reported. If you observe a water leak, sewer odor, discolored water, open manholes, alarms are sounding, or other problems, please help us by calling:

Hays Utility Service @ 936-588-1166.

Hays has someone in Bentwater every day, seven days a week. They can and will respond 24 hours a day. Their general office hours are from 8:00AM to 4:30PM Monday through Friday.

Meetings Open to the Public:

Our regularly scheduled monthly meetings are the **2nd Tuesdays at 2:30PM** in the Country Club Board Room. Meetings are open to the public. The agenda is posted on our web site and the message board in the breezeway entrance to the Country Club Grill near the Golf Pro-shop.

Sincerely,

Your MUD Board:

Lou Tichacek	President	597-7010
Linda Pierce	Vice President	597-5463
Roy Champagne	Treasurer	597-8786
Joe Constantino	Secretary	597-8029
Chris Uzelmeier	Assistant Secretary	449-5198