



Currents



Winter 2016

Mission Statement

“The District is dedicated to provide excellent water and wastewater services, and fiscally responsible management of the resources of our ratepayers in an environmentally responsive manner.”

Commissioners

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Closed Saturdays,
Sundays and Holidays

In this issue

Know Your Water Meter Location

Winter Water Tips

Teaching Our Future Generation

Droughts and Floods



Droughts and Floods

With our recent heavy rainstorms, it’s hard to remember just a few months ago we were talking about droughts and water conservation. On July 27, a stage 1 Water Advisory was declared by the Everett, Seattle and Tacoma Water Systems, where residents and businesses were asked to continue to use water wisely to help ensure a sufficient water supply. On August 11, the Water Advisory moved to a Stage 2 Voluntary Curtailment to “Reduce Your Use”, which asked customers to reduce their use of water by 10%. Residents and businesses responded very well and water use was cut by up to 14% during later summer months. By November 23, the rains came and the Water Advisory was deactivated as water supplies went back to normal. Now in December, we are seeing and talking about flooding.

So what is going on with this crazy weather and how should we manage our water supply and water consumption? Is the drought over or will we see another dry summer with low

snow-pack? It’s hard to imagine with your windshield wipers on high, but many experts expect overall abnormally dry conditions in the Puget Sound area with much of Eastern Washington in extreme drought conditions. Forecasters still see a warmer and drier winter which means another dry summer next year will swing us back to drought conditions and a return to Water Advisories.

But whether we are talking about droughts or not, it benefits all of us, water consumers or water providers, to use our water wisely. And best of all, it’s not that hard. Maybe a little less time in the shower, fix that leaky sink or toilet, don’t let the water run when brushing your teeth.....all of which helps to reduce your water consumption. For our part, the District annually conducts distribution system leak surveys and monitors the overall water usage to make sure we are on top of fixing water main leaks before they become a major problem. Together we can make a difference.



Know Your Water Meter Location

The District owns and maintains your water service line from the water main to, and including, the water meter. Typically your meter is located in a concrete box flush to the ground, in the Right-of-Way near one of your property corners. However some meters may be located in other locations such as down a driveway or behind a fence. If you don't know where your meter is located, now is a good time to find it. If for some reason you can't find your meter or you are unsure of where it is, please call our office at 425-355-3355 and we will be happy to schedule a time to help you find it.

There are several reasons why you should know the location of your water meter. First and foremost, you own and are responsible for the water service line from the meter to your home. If a leak occurs in this section of the service line, knowing where your meter is may help you find the leak. Second, in the event of an emergency, your water can be shut off at the meter by shutting off the meter valve.

Typically your home has a water shut off valve in or near your home and you should use this to shut off

your water. However, if you have a problem with your home water shut off valve or don't have one, the water meter valve can be used to shut off your water. If you do use the water meter valve to shut off your water, please let the District know as soon as possible. Be cautioned, if you break the District's valve, you will be charged for the repair. Only use the water meter shut off in case of an emergency.

If you do need to shut off your water at the meter box, locate the box and carefully remove the lid by using a tool such as a large screwdriver. Many meters have been converted to an Automated Meter Reading meter and will have a wire connecting the meter box lid to the meter. To prevent damaging the wire, do not pull hard on the wire and make sure it is tucked back in the meter box prior to putting the lid back on. Next, visually examine inside the meter box to make sure there are no insects, bugs or small animals before reaching into the box. You may have to remove some soil from the box to see the meter and valve. The soil insulates the meter from freezing so be sure to replace it

when done. Once the soil is cleared away, you should see a valve that when closed will shut off your water. Once again, only use this water valve in case of an emergency and let the District know you shut it off.

Finally, the District needs instant access at all times to your water meter but recognizes that homeowner landscaping improvements may include the area around the meter box. Please remember, we are great at maintaining the water and sewer systems...however we probably will not win any landscaping awards. The District encourages you to take the time and effort to make sure all vegetation is cleared away, leaving unobstructed access to your water meter at all times.

If you have any questions or concerns, contact the District and we will assist you in any way we can.



Please note: Stormwater fees are billed by Mukilteo Water and Wastewater District on behalf of the City of Mukilteo. The city provides stormwater services and establishes the rates that are charged for the services. MWWD bills and collects the fees, then remits the fees to the City per an agreement made. Any questions in regards to these charges should be directed to the City of Mukilteo at (425) 263-8000.

Winter Water Tips

If you are planning a winter vacation and will be away from your home for any length of time remember to shut off the water and drain your system. Make sure to turn off the water heater before you drain your pipes.

To avoid frozen pipes also remember to:

- Insulate pipes and faucets in unheated areas.
- Heat all rooms in your home that have plumbing features.
- Drain and disconnect outdoor hoses.
- Protect your outdoor water meter box. Your water meter needs to be covered to protect it from freezing. Contact the District if your meter box cover is damaged or missing.
- Locate your main shut-off valve. The District's crew is very busy when the area has freezing weather conditions. Knowing where your turn-off valve is located can save time and prevent damage from flooding.
- If a water pipe does break, immediately turn off your main shut-off valve.
- Never use an open flame or electrical device to thaw frozen pipes.

For more information and other water tips please visit our website under "water quality"
www.mukilteowwd.org

TEACHING OUR FUTURE

In September the Big Gulch Wastewater Treatment Facility was visited by 24 children aging from 6 to 8 years old. Now your first thought might be "what were you thinking, young children in a sewer plant?" The truth is that this is the very best time to start teaching about the environment and how to protect it.

It was amazing that people this age asked such pertinent questions about the treatment process and the biology that's involved. Of course, the heavy equipment on display was a big hit also. After the walking tour was finished the group went into our lab where our Laboratory Technician showed the group live microscopic organisms used for wastewater treatment. Then they saw the

computer control system that is used to control the process.

What were we thinking? Well, we were thinking that these young men and women are going to be great protectors of their environment and our future looks bright.





The District has a robust preventative maintenance and capital improvement program to make sure our systems are reliable for the long-term. Some of the notable projects completed in 2015 include:

- Painted the exterior of Reservoir #1
- Replaced old water and sewer lines in 3rd Street
- Replaced many of our old water meters
- Extended the water main across the Speedway at Goat Trail Road
- Painted structural steel at the Wastewater Treatment Facility
- Replaced two major pumps at the Wastewater Treatment Facility

Some of the projects slated for 2016 include:

- Painting the interior of Reservoir #4 and #5
- Replacing a section of water main along 5th Avenue
- Replacing a section of sewer force main along the Speedway
- Upgrading the Holly Drive Lift Station
- Replacing mechanical screens at the Wastewater Treatment Facility
- Replacing mixers at the Wastewater Treatment Facility

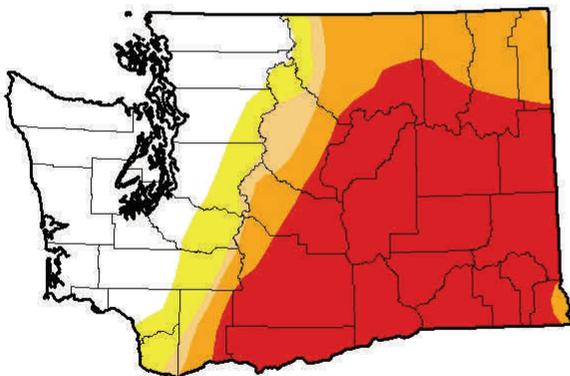
The District takes pride in its high quality maintenance program and by replacing infrastructure before it fails, the District better ensures our valued customers have reliable water and sewer service that meets or exceeds regulatory requirements.

Tips to

“reduce your use”

- Take shorter showers
- Wash only full loads of laundry and dishes
- Let your lawn go dormant
- Check for and fix leaks, including checking toilets for silent leaks
- Use a broom, not a hose, to clean sidewalks, driveways and patios
- Take your car to a commercial car wash and wash it less often

U.S. Drought Monitor Washington



December 1, 2015

(Released Thursday, Dec. 3, 2015)

Valid 7 a.m. EST

Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	27.62	72.38	64.49	60.38	44.51	0.00
Last Week 11/24/2015	26.42	73.58	64.49	60.44	46.12	0.00
3 Months Ago 9/1/2015	0.00	100.00	100.00	99.99	67.96	0.00
Start of Calendar Year 12/31/2014	51.87	48.13	36.15	14.83	0.00	0.00
Start of Water Year 9/29/2015	0.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	67.96	0.00
One Year Ago 12/2/2014	50.18	49.82	36.89	16.36	0.00	0.00

Intensity

- None D0 Abnormally Dry
- D1 Moderate Drought
- D2 Severe Drought
- D3 Extreme Drought
- D4 Exceptional Drought

The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. See accompanying text summary for forecast statements.

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<http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/>

