



# What's on Tap

Vision of Tomorrow | Action Today

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## Emergency Preparedness

**Everyone Needs Water.** Fact: Water is an essential part of everyday life. Covington Water District prides itself in making sure all of its customers receive clean, safe, potable water 24/7/365. But what happens when the water service is interrupted by a large scale emergency?

**Major Emergency.** A major earthquake is most likely the largest emergency/catastrophe our region is facing. With that will come significant damage to roads, bridges, buildings, and utilities. The key to recovery is Emergency Preparedness!

**Preparedness.** Over the years, District staff has received various levels of training from multiple agencies on emergency preparedness and emergency response. In February the District hosted a 2-day course specific to water/wastewater utilities conducted by a Critical Infrastructure Disaster Management Team from the Texas A&M Engineering Extension Service (TEEX), a nationally recognized leader in emergency preparedness and response training. Using the tools and lessons learned, the District will continue enhancing its emergency preparedness and response strategies.

**How You Can Prepare.** Storing water is certainly a primary component of being prepared, however there are numerous other components to address such as first aid supplies, food, contact information, etc. The following website can assist you with your own emergency preparedness kits. Remember... it's not about if a major emergency will happen, but more so when.

[www.kingcounty.gov/safety/prepare/residents-business/PersonalPreparedness](http://www.kingcounty.gov/safety/prepare/residents-business/PersonalPreparedness)



## Unidirectional Flushing Has Resumed!



The District's Unidirectional Flushing (UDF) Program is a common water utility maintenance procedure designed to clean the inner surface of the water distribution pipelines. The UDF Program is a year round activity, however the winter months of November through January can produce freezing temperatures which postpones the flushing to prevent icy conditions on the streets and roadways.

### What is being removed from the pipelines?

Fire hydrants are used to flush out solids such as sediment, sand, and naturally occurring minerals like iron and manganese that settle to the bottom of the pipelines. These solids are not harmful at the levels found, however they can cause reduced water flow and/or create taste and odor issues. UDF resolves these issues.

### Where is the UDF taking place?

District staff will place "sandwich board" signs at the major intersections in the area being flushed 2-3 days in advance of the flushing. To view a detailed map of the current area being flushed please visit our website at [covingtonwater.com](http://covingtonwater.com) and click on Flushing.

### Will I Be Affected?

Flushing will generally be conducted between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. Select hydrants in each neighborhood will be opened for flushing. While the hydrants are open, the homes on that block may experience discolored water, or a slight drop in pressure; your water service should not be interrupted.

You are encouraged to refrain from using water, whenever possible, when flushing is occurring in your area to avoid bringing the discolored water into your plumbing system which could discolor laundry and/or clog the screens in your taps.

**What Should I do if I Experience Discolored Water?** First, do not be alarmed if you should experience reddish, yellowish or brownish water coming from your tap. The discoloration will typically clear after a short period of flushing your system. It's best to flush your system from a cold water tap, such as the tap in your bathtub or an outdoor hose bib. Flush the cold water first at a high volume until the water is clear (usually in 2-3 minutes), and then flush your hot water in the same manner. After flushing, if you notice the volume of water at your kitchen or bathroom taps is less than normal, remove the screens, clean and replace.

**Learn More!** Customers are encouraged to call the District at 253-631-0565 if you have questions regarding the UDF Program and/or when the UDF team will be in your area.

## The District's Water System Plan

Covington Water District is in the final stages of completing updates to its Water System Plan in accordance with Chapter 246-290 of the Washington Administrative Code (WAC). A Water System Plan is required for all public water systems that serve over 1,000 services and they are required to be updated every six years.

The purpose of a Water System Plan (WSP) is to develop a long-term planning strategy for the District's water service area. The WSP evaluates the existing system and its ability to meet the anticipated requirements for water source, quality, transmission, storage and distribution over a twenty-year planning period. Water system improvement projects are developed to meet the changing demands of regulatory impacts, and population growth, as well as infrastructure repair and replacement. The WSP also identifies costs of the improvement projects and provides a financial plan for funding the projects. This improvement plan is referred to as the Capital Improvement Plan and is then incorporated into the District's annual budget forecast.

## The District's Capital Improvement Plan

The District's Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) is part of the Board's adoption of the operating budget that is tied to the District's rate and budget projections. The District has an annual CIP program that aims to improve the District's assets with an ongoing improvement program that corrects existing system deficiencies, provides for growth, maintains the system reliability, and continues to supply customers with safe, clean water that meets State and Federal drinking water regulatory requirements. The following is a brief description of projects for 2016 that will be in design and/or construction.

**168th Ave SE/SE 344th Street Watermain Extension.** This project, which is also referred to as the Jerke project, connects two existing 8-inch dead end mains. The benefit to this improvement will be improved flow conveyance to the southwestern portion of the 660 zone and decreasing the amount of water quality issues related to dead end mains that require frequent flushing.

**SE 248th Street - Homestead II Watermain Extension.** This project replaces existing substandard 4-inch pipe and provides improved circulation and fire flow. This completes the original Homestead I project extending the watermain on SE 284th Street to 210th Avenue SE.

**266th Place Watermain Extension.** Existing 4-inch cast iron pipe and hydrants will be replaced and upgraded with an 8-inch ductile iron watermain. This will improve the flow capacity as well as replacing old cast iron pipe that is reaching the end of its useful life.

**Jenkins Creek East (SE 272nd Street).** This project consists of relocating existing watermains in conjunction with the City of Covington's 5 lane transportation roadway improvements project for a bridge crossing on SR 516 over Jenkins creek. Constructing this main along with other jurisdictions and partners reduces the cost of future replacement of the lines and minimizes disruption to traffic, businesses and neighborhoods within the various project areas.

**Tank Improvements.** Two separate tanks sites have been evaluated and planned for seismic and future zone improvements. The tanks at these two sites will require upgrades to comply with current structural codes and will improve services to its respective zones.

**Well Improvements.** Maintenance and proposed upgrades to two well sites and the respective equipment will ensure the sites' reliability and useful longevity is extended.