



What's on Tap

Vision of Tomorrow | Action Today

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CovingtonWater.com

Washington State Department of Health Conducts Sanitary Survey at the District

The Department of Health (DOH) conducts sanitary surveys of each state public water system on a revolving basis at least once every three years. A sanitary survey is a periodic inspection of water system facilities, operations and records, which is used to identify conditions that may present a sanitary public health risk. Comprehensive sanitary surveys are important practices, which help water systems protect public health by supplying water to their customers that meet or exceed water quality regulations. They are conducted to evaluate:

- The capability of a drinking water system to consistently and reliably deliver an adequate quality and quantity of safe drinking water to the consumer.
- The system's compliance with federal and state drinking water regulations.
- Deficiencies that may create risks of future water contamination.

There are eight (8) minimum components of all routine sanitary survey inspections, which include:

1. Planning and management documentation.
2. Distribution system review including the status of the Cross-Connection Control Program.
3. Source (wells) and sanitary control area.
4. Source pumps and pumping facilities.
5. Source treatment procedures and equipment.
6. Pressure tanks.
7. Finished water storage facilities.
8. Operator certification status.

A DOH sanitary survey was conducted at the District on October 28, 2014 and we are proud to announce that no significant deficiencies or issues were observed. However, the District will not receive a full report on the October 28 sanitary survey visit from DOH until sometime in late December. The District will provide a full report of DOH findings and comments in the next edition of the "What's on Tap" newsletter.

It is the District's goal to provide our customers with consistent, reliable and safe drinking water and to do so in a fiscally responsible manner. It is apparent that in the eyes of our regulating agency, DOH, that we are doing a good job of that.

The District offices will be closed
Christmas Eve (December 24),
Christmas Day (December 25),
New Years Day (January 1)
and Martin Luther King Day (January 19)

Water Rates

On November 5, 2014, the Board of Water Commissioners approved a 3% revenue increase which is effective beginning with the January 2, 2014 billing cycle. The revenue requirement is necessary to meet maintenance, operations, capital, and debt service needs for the upcoming year.

The revenue requirement is achieved through an increase to the flat rate meter charge for both residential and commercial customers and an increase to commercial consumption rates. For a single-family residence with a 5/8" single or dual meter, the increase for the 2-month bill is estimated to be \$3.00.

The 2015 rate schedule may be accessed on the District's website at covingtonwater.com.

Unidirectional Flushing

What is Unidirectional Flushing?



Covington Water District has been active for several years in a common utility maintenance procedure called unidirectional flushing. The procedure involves opening specifically selected fire hydrants and closing specifically selected valves under controlled conditions to scour and clean the inner surface of the water distribution pipes. The scouring process is achieved by using high velocity flow rates which help remove corrosion scale and sediment that has accumulated naturally over time. If otherwise left in place, these deposits could degrade the quality of water and restrict pipeline carrying capacities.

Why is the water discolored?

The discolored or "brown water" being flushed out of the fire hydrants is due to the solids that are being removed from the interior surface of the pipes. These solids may include sand, sediment, iron, and manganese, all of which are naturally-occurring and common to virtually every water system in our region. These solids are not harmful at the levels that cause the discoloration, however they may impart an undesirable taste to the water.

How will I know when the flushing is happening in my neighborhood?

Notification boards will be placed at the major street intersections 2-3 days prior to the actual flushing. The notification or "sandwich boards" will show the dates and times the flushing will occur. In most cases, the impact to your home or business will last 1-2 days as District crews move through your area. The District's goal is to flush the entire distribution system (285 miles of pipe) every five years.

What do I do if I have discolored water in my home?

Customers are advised to fully open their cold water faucets in the kitchen and bathroom to flush the discolored water out of their plumbing system. In most cases, the water should begin to clear within 2-3 minutes. If it does not clear, please contact the District's Customer Service Division at 253-631-0565 for assistance.



Who do I call with questions about the flushing program?

Please contact Mike Amburgey, Operations Manager, at 253-867-0950 if you would like to learn more about this water distribution maintenance program.



Winter Storm Preparedness

A little preparation now can save a lot of discomfort or expensive repairs later. Here are some things to consider:

• **BUILD A KIT.** A catastrophe can impact your ability to access food, water and electricity. A 7-10 day emergency supply kit is a basic tool for providing peace of mind, comfort, and survival needs in the face of a catastrophe.

• **PLAN FOR POWER OUTAGES.** Have a way of lighting and heating your home that does not rely on electricity. **Do not burn charcoal or use a generator indoors.**

- Winterize your vehicle with anti-freeze.
- Winterize your house.
- Drain/blow out irrigation system, insulate exposed pipes and faucets to prevent freezing.
- Know where your Master Meter Shutoff Valve is located.

There are many resources available to assist you and your family in preparing for emergencies. The following websites: King County Office of Emergency Management at www.kingcounty.gov/safety/prepare or Take Winter by Storm at www.TakeWinterByStorm.org offer detailed information.

