

Samish Farms Water Association



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WATER RATE INCREASE

Samish Farms will implement a water rate increase on July 1, 2010. Rates will go from \$2.32 to \$2.38 per 100 c.f, to stay current with the 3% PUD increase. This will show up on the September bill for the months of July and August. Also, included in the cost of a new water share is the System Development Fee, which SFWA pays to PUD. On April 15, 2010 the System Development Fee was raised to \$2,304, bringing the cost of a new water share to \$10,904.00.

Thank you to Al Seitz who is retiring from the board after 12 years of service. Having owned and operated his own construction company, his advice was instrumental in the success of our major water line replacement and new water tower. We are so thankful to Al for volunteering his time to helping SFWA.

Taste and odor events come with the seasons. SFWA buys water from Skagit PUD. PUD draws water from Judy Reservoir, east of Clear Lake, which is supplied from four streams within the Cultus Mountains and the Skagit River. Like many other water systems, we occasionally experience taste and odor changes, related to the compounds present in the source water.

The most significant source of odor in water supplies is the growth and decay of microorganisms in surface water. Blue-green algae, green algae, diatoms, and flagellates are the four algae groups responsible for most odor complaints. Algae thrive at different times of the year in reservoirs. As these organisms grow and multiply, they excrete small amounts of harmless chemicals into the water that cause a musty, moldy, or earthy taste and odor. Although algae are removed during the

process, some of their metabolites (non-toxic, odorant chemicals) may be left behind.

The two most common metabolites are geosmin and 2-methylisobomeal (MIB). Even though these compounds are harmless, the human senses of taste and smell are extremely sensitive to them and can detect them in the water at concentrations as low as five parts per trillion.

Algae are common, normal inhabitants of surface waters and are beneficial to the health of a water body. Algae are important as primary producers of organic matter at the base of the food chain and are useful indicators of pollution. They help remove excess nutrients, produce oxygen and provide spawning habitat for fish.

HOW TO USE YOUR WATER METER TO CHECK FOR LEAKS

- Locate your meter. It is usually found in a meter box in a small concrete or black plastic vault near the street
- Turn off all faucets in and around the home.
- Check the meter reading.
- Wait 15 minutes.
- Read your meter again. If the reading has changed, you have a leak that needs immediate attention.

IRRIGATION SAFETY

Irrigation systems make watering lawns and gardens easier and save time, BUT, water that may be contaminated by weed killers and/or fertilizers can be back-siphoned (backflow) into your drinking water. Irrigation systems not protected by approved backflow prevention assemblies could endanger the health of a household, neighborhood or community

All IRRIGATION SYSTEMS ... new or existing... MUST BE EQUIPPED with an approved backflow prevention assembly. Only properly installed, state-approved backflow prevention assemblies meet the plumbing code and provide health protection for your family and neighbors.

SFWA can give you a free list of state-approved backflow prevention assemblies and state certified testers.

TWO TYPES OF BACKFLOW PREVENTION ASSEMBLIES

DOUBLE CHECK VALVE ASSEMBLY (DCVA)

....highly versatile

....requires annual testing by certified tester

REDUCED PRESSURE BACKFLOW ASSEMBLY (RPBA)

....usually most expensive

....most complex

....allows for application of fertilizer or other chemicals into irrigation system (No other type has this approval).

....requires annual testing by certified tester.

Cross Connection Information

Every year in North America, people get sick when their drinking water is contaminated by cross-connections.

A cross connection is any connection between your drinking water piping and a source of contamination. Cross connections can make your drinking water unsafe.

What Cross-Connections Should I Look for Around My Home?

- Irrigation Systems
- Swimming pools and hot tubs
- Hose-end applicators for garden chemicals
- Animal watering troughs
- Residential fire sprinkler systems
- Private wells or other water sources used for irrigation
- Solar heating systems

Doesn't Water Pressure in the Pipes Keep Contamination Out?

Not always. When pressure in the water system drops because of a power outage, water leak, line break, fire or other problem, contamination can be pulled back into the system. Or if the source of contamination is under pressure from a pump, or from being at a higher elevation, it can be forced back into the drinking water system. Even if there is a valve separating the drinking water system from the source of contamination, the valve may not seal tight enough to prevent contamination from happening.

What Can I Do to Help?

- Make sure each of your outside faucets, or hose bibs, are protected by a vacuum breaker. These are available from your home improvement center or hardware store.
 - Never leave a hose submerged in a water trough or other container of non-potable liquid.
 - Make sure all your plumbing changes meet code. Contact your local plumbing inspector whenever you plan any plumbing changes in and around your home
 - Don't use hose-end applicators to apply garden chemicals. If you use chemicals around your home and garden, use an applicator that does not need to be connected to the water system.
 - If you have a residential fire sprinkler system, swimming pool, hot tub or irrigation system, contact your local plumbing inspector for information on how to make sure it is properly isolated from the drinking water supply.
 - If you have a water trough for livestock, make sure there is an air-gap between the overflow level of the water in the trough and the open end of the faucet or hose bib. The air gap must be at least two times the inside diameter of the faucet. Never leave a hose submerged in a trough or other container of non-potable liquid
 - If you have a private well, or other source of water for irrigation, make sure it is NEVER connected to the drinking water piping even when separated by a closed valve.
- Questions? <<http://www.doh.wa.gov/ehp/dw>>