

IMPORTANT SPECIAL WATER ISSUE

WATER LINE FLUSHING

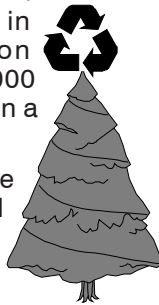
The District is scheduled to perform maintenance of water lines by flushing all of the districts water lines on January 26, 2002 and January 27, 2002. We will begin the flushing at 11pm on January 26th and continue until 6am on January 27th. This maintenance may cause discoloration of your water while the maintenance is on going. Please minimize your water usage during these hours. It is recommended that you also refrain from washing your clothes during these hours.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the District's operator, H2O Consulting at, 281-861-6215.

CHRISTMAS TREE RECYCLING

Since the City of Houston's Christmas Tree Recycling Program began in 1991, the Parks and Recreation Department estimates that 350,000 trees have been recycled resulting in a landfill savings of \$5000.

During the holiday season, there are numerous drop-off sites located around the city. The trees are chipped and converted into mulch and for sale back to the public.



Sites open from 9am to 5pm weekdays and 9am to noon on Saturday include:

CJM Soils Supermarket, 12202 Cutten Rd.
CJM Soils Supermarket, 1700 Highway 90A East
Living Earth Technology, 5625 Crawford Rd.
Living Earth Technology, 1503 Industrial Drive

Sites open from 9am to 5pm Monday through Saturday and 1pm to 5pm Sunday include:

Memorial Park, Ball Fields 4 and 5, 7300 Memorial Drive
Sommermeyer Neighborhood Depository, 6023 Windfern
Westpark Consumer Recycling Center, 5900 Westpark

For more information, call 713-837-9130.

WINTERIZE NOW

Texas weather can change quickly, especially in the winter. When a bitter cold front rolls in, spring-like conditions can give way to freezing temperatures within hours.

When water freezes, it expands. If ice forms in your home's water pipes, it can shatter pipe seals or the pipes themselves, sending water pouring through your house. Most residents in the Copperfield area have copper pipes, which are susceptible to freezing and breaking in subfreezing temperatures if not adequately insulated.

You can avoid thousands of dollars of damage to your walls, ceilings, carpets, and furniture by making a little investment in time to prepare before the first cold spell hits.

BEFORE THE FREEZE

- Use faucet covers, or wrap rags, paper, trash bags, or plastic foam around faucets and outdoor pipes.
- Cover any vents around your home's foundation.
- Bring water hoses indoors.
- Open the cabinets under the sinks in your kitchen and bathrooms to allow heated in door air to circulate around water pipes.
- Protect outdoor electrical pumps.
- If you have a swimming pool, either drain the circulation system or keep the pump motor running. (Run the pump motor only in a short freeze. Running the motor for long periods could damage it.)
- Let faucets drip, but don't run a big stream of water.
- If you leave town, or for during the night, consider turning off your water at the master shut-off valve while faucets are running to drain your pipes. (Make sure the faucets are turned off before you turn the shut-off valve back on.). Consider this for second homes, beach houses, etc...
- If you drain your pipes, protect your water heater. Buy a kit for as little as \$15 to use as a blanket.

IF YOUR PIPES FREEZE

- Turn off your water at the master shut-off valve.
- Call a plumber for help.
- Don't use lamps or electrical appliances to thaw frozen pipes. Leaking water from thawing pipes could cause a short and you could be electrocuted.
- If you try to thaw your own pipes, apply heat slowly, and move it toward the coldest spot on the pipe. Never concentrate heat in one spot — cracking ice can shatter a pipe.
- Never use an open flame of any sort.



IF YOU HAVE A LOSS

- Contact your insurance agent or company promptly. Follow as soon as possible with a written claim to protect your rights under Texas' prompt-payment law.
- Review your coverage. Homeowners and renters policies pay for property repair. In addition, they pay for debris removal and for temporary additional living expenses if you have to move.
- Check to see if your policy requires you to make temporary repairs to protect your property from further damage. Keep all receipts and damaged property for the adjuster to inspect. If possible, take photos or videos of the damage before making repairs.
- Don't make permanent repairs. An insurance company may deny a claim if you make permanent repairs before an adjuster inspects the damage.

Be advised that most homeowners policies do not cover loss caused by freezing pipes while your house is unoccupied unless you have used reasonable care to:

- maintain heat in the building
- shut off the water supply
- drain plumbing, heating, and air conditioning systems of water.

PLANTS NEED CONSIDERATION

Freezing and dry winds cause more moisture to evaporate from outdoor plants that the root system cannot replace, resulting in winter kill. Watering your shrubs and lawn prior to freezing weather can prevent disaster.

IN CASE OF AN EMERGENCY

Water emergencies are best handled by a professional plumber, call H2O Consulting at, 281-861-6215 if you need water shut off at the meter.

ALTERNATIVE PESTICIDES

Diazinon, dursban and Malathion can contribute to potentially serious problems in our environment. In light of these concerns brought to the attention of all the Copperfield MUD districts, alternate forms of pesticides are recommended for residents to limit bug infestation.

Desiccants

Diatomaceous earth, a dust is used primarily outdoors to create a barrier against ants, fleas, ticks and garden pests. Silica aero gel is a compound sprayed into cracks, crevices, and wall voids to control a variety of household and structural pests. This is stocked at hardware stores in the lawn and garden section. The cost is comparable to many synthetic products.

Boric Acid

Boric acid is highly recommended for the control of cockroaches, ants and silverfish inside the home. Read and follow the label carefully.

Pyrethrum and Pyrethrin

Pyrethrum is a powder derived from the chrysanthemum flower. Pyrethrin causes insect paralysis in fleas, ticks and other such pests. Pyrethrin can be toxic to cats.

Insecticidal Soap

These soaps are effective against a variety of soft-bodied insects such as aphids and fleas and are virtually non-toxic to humans.

Repellents

Commonly used to discourage the pest's presence, these sprays made from onion, garlic, crushed insects and citrus are used as repellents. Burning citronella candles or oils repel mosquitoes. Bay leaves placed around food storage area discourage

ants and other pantry pests. Onions, garlic and some types of herbs are popular plants used to repel pests.

Limonene/Linalool

Low toxicity makes these attractive to use on pets to repel insects.

Bacillus Thuringiensis

A class of microbial insecticide, this uses bacteria to cause death in insects.

Nematodes

Specialized nematodes are commercially available for the control of fire ants, grubs and flies. After application, they can remain effective for several years.

If diazinon or other synthetic forms of pesticides must be used, please read the labels carefully and only use what is recommended from the manufacturer. Dispose of any unused pesticides properly. NEVER POUR UNUSED PESTICIDES DOWN THE SINK OR DRAIN.

WATER WELL EXPANSION COMPLETE

In an effort to ensure that MUD 208 maintains quality water services in the future, the Board of Directors approved the construction of a second water well last year that is now complete. On the same site of the original well, the goal was to expand the current water well capacity.

Several factors made this necessary, including the significant drought weather conditions we have experienced in recent years, increased water usage in the district, subsidence, and the very gradual decline in the static water level of the original well.

Completed in a six-month time frame, the new shallow water well in the district will augment peaking water usage periods and provide an auxiliary water source to operate while conducting repairs and maintenance on the original water well.

As a resident, you may help us in this effort by adopting water conservation as a household practice. The tips we provide on a continual basis are necessary to continue to maintain the quality of life we all experience and expect in Copperfield.

METER REPLACEMENT PROGRAM

Harris County MUD district No. 208 has instituted a water meter replacement program. The meter manufacturer recommends that meters be replaced every 10 years or 1,500,000 gallons of usage. Over the next 12 to 18 months your meter may be replaced as it meets this criteria.

NOW IS THE TIME TO PLANT A TREE

Generally speaking, the best time to plant a tree is mid November to late February in the Houston area. Planting in winter allows roots to take hold before the summer set in with moisture demands.

The benefits of trees to your landscape are numerous. Consider the following reasons to take on this endeavor; energy conservation, increased property value, wildlife habitat, aesthetics, improved air quality, and storm water reduction.



Here are some simple guidelines:

Planting a Container Grown Tree

Do not remove the tree from the container until you are ready for planting. Fine roots can dry out easily when exposed to air.

Hole Size

A hole 2-3 times wider than the root ball and slightly shallower is needed. The tree should be placed slightly above the original soil level; this is especially true with the clay soils we experience in Copperfield that may inhibit drainage. When the hole is ready, gently remove the tree while lightly pressing against container sides. Cut container if necessary, to loosen root ball.

Placing the tree in the hole

Set tree gently into the space provided, lifting by root ball. Center tree and plant. Cut any circling roots along the outer edge of the root ball with pruning shears. Backfill around the root ball while holding the tree and press down soil slightly to eliminate air pockets. Large blocks of soil should be broken apart before backfilling.

Mulching

Remove any weeds or grass within a 3" minimum diameter circle around the newly planted tree and dig a watering saucer. Cover with 3-4" of mulch, a composition of bark, pine needles, compost or wood chips, etc... Do not use freshly mown grass clippings.

Watering

Place water hose at base of tree and allow trickling slowly until saturation has occurred. Repeat every three weeks until March. In April begin slow soaking every two weeks. Root zones should be soaked weekly May through October.

Taking Care of Your Newly Planted Tree

After watering and settling, use mulch for replacement. If necessary, stake the tree to keep upright. Prune diseased, dead or damaged branches. Structural pruning should be avoided until the second year of growth.

MUD 208 WEBSITE ONLINE

Understanding the value of keeping residents informed, along with our newsletter publications, MUD 208 has developed a website for residents.

What You Can Find:

Water Board Directors and their terms.
Consultants Directory
Customer Page detailing deposit amounts and procedures
Drinking Water Quality Report
Water Rate Order, including Conservation Rate Schedule
Security Deposit Refund Policy
Photos of District Facilities
Water Trouble Spot Checklist
Newsletters
Additional Water Websites
Drought Contingency Plan

As information is available, the site will be updated with pertinent details. When surfing the net, next time we hope you will access the MUD 208 site,

www.go-texan.com/MUD208

SURFACE WATER CONVERSION UPDATE

Harris County MUD 208, working in conjunction with the West Harris County Water Authority and the Copperfield Water Consortium has proposed a solution to satisfy the Harris-Galveston Coastal Subsidence District's Plan to convert from pumping ground water to surface water.

Under serious consideration is the option to purchase water from the West Authority and

in conjunction with other Copperfield MUD Districts, to analyze, design and construct our own underground infrastructure to meet the GRP (Ground Water Reduction Plan) mandate of 30% reduction by 2010, 70% by 2020 and 80% by 2030.

Ongoing negotiations will continue on this issue. For the most current information, continue to read the MUD 208 Newsletter, check our website at www.go-texan.com/MUD208 or contact our legal counsel, Jana Cogburn of Fulbright and Jaworski, at 713-651-3620.

YOU CAN CONTACT US AT

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