

Atascadero Mutual Water Company
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Water Watch



November 2007

ATASCADERO MUTUAL WATER COMPANY

Protect Your Pipes From Freezing

The first hard freeze of the year generally occurs in late November, but could occur even earlier. Last year's freezing weather caught many homeowners in Atascadero by surprise. Many customers' pipes froze and broke during the cold snap in January. When the freezing temperatures hit, AMWC received dozens of calls from customers who had no water or whose pipes had burst. Fortunately, there are some things you can do to reduce the chances of this happening to you. Here are some tips to protect your pipes from freezing:

- Wrap all exterior pipes with insulation
- Turn off any exterior water that you will not be using this winter
- Drain any exterior lines you will not need to use, such as irrigation lines



When there are freezing temperatures outside, it is not uncommon for AMWC to receive calls from customers who have no water -- the culprit is usually frozen pipes. If this happens, you can pour warm water over the exterior pipe leading into your home to thaw the pipe and get the water flowing again. And, once the water starts flowing, be sure to check for leaks. If you hear water running when you have no water running inside your home, you may have a leak; if you have a leak, you should keep the water service off until it can be repaired. You can shut your service off by using the customer valve in the meter box. Never leave home if your pipes are frozen -- leaks are not usually detectable until after the pipes thaw.

You may also want to take some precautions if you are planning to leave town when the temperatures have started dipping into the freezing range. Shutting off the water service to your house could prevent flooding in your home, as well as a large water bill, due to a pipe freezing and breaking while you're away.

Feel free to call AMWC (466-2428) for assistance if you think you may have frozen pipes or a leak.

WATER RATE INCREASE

At their October 17, 2007, meeting, the AMWC Board of Directors adopted new water user rates for the year 2008 and tentatively adopted new water rates for years 2009 - 2011, subject to annual review. The new water rates will become effective with AMWC's January 2008 billing period (mid-December through mid-January). The new rates adopted by the Board are shown on the following tables:

Minimum Monthly Rates*					
Meter Size (inches)	Current Rate	Rate Effective mid-Dec 2007	Tentatively approved rates		
			2009	2010	2011
5/8	\$14.00	\$14.50	\$15.00	\$15.50	\$16.00
3/4	\$14.00	\$14.50	\$15.00	\$15.50	\$16.00
1	\$18.00	\$18.50	\$19.00	\$20.00	\$21.00
1 1/2	\$23.00	\$24.00	\$25.00	\$26.00	\$27.00
2	\$37.00	\$38.00	\$39.00	\$40.00	\$41.00
3	\$135.00	\$140.00	\$145.00	\$150.00	\$155.00
4	\$172.00	\$178.00	\$184.00	\$190.00	\$197.00
6	\$270.00	\$279.00	\$289.00	\$299.00	\$309.00
Hydrant	\$45.00	\$47.00	\$49.00	\$51.00	\$53.00

* The minimum monthly rate includes 2,000 gallons

Water Rates						
Tier	Annual Increase	Current Rate	Rate Effective mid-Dec 2007	Tentatively approved rates		
				2009	2010	2011
1	7%	\$1.40	\$1.50	\$1.60	\$1.70	\$1.80
2	13%	\$1.90	\$2.15	\$2.45	\$2.75	\$3.10
3	15%	\$2.65	\$3.05	\$3.50	\$4.05	\$4.65
4	17%	\$2.90	\$3.40	\$4.00	\$4.70	\$5.50
Tier 1	3-12 thousand gallons					
Tier 2	13-25 thousand gallons					
Tier 3	26-50 thousand gallons					
Tier 4	greater than 50 thousand gallons					

Automatic Payment Now Available



We are happy to announce that the convenience of automatic payment has come to Atascadero Mutual Water Company. Having your water bill payment automatically deducted from your bank account gives you one less thing to think about. Please call the office (466-2428) or visit our website at www.amwc.us for more information.