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## 2017 OUTSTANDING PERFORMER

We did it again! Heceta Water PUD was named as an Outstanding Performer in 2017. The District was recently evaluated by Oregon Drinking Water Services. We had no deficiencies identified, as well as no violations. This allows the District to have its survey frequency (and the fees attached to that) reduced from three years to five years. Kudos to our water operators for a job well done!

## HOW ARE YOU GROWING YOUR GARDEN?

It makes sense that more water is used in our District during the summer months. We have visitors to the coast that stay in the campgrounds located within our boundaries. 'Rainbirds' come to their summer homes. A large percentage of the extra usage is used on landscapes, such as lawns, plants, and gardens.

Using native plants in your landscape helps support and enhance local environments and habitat for wildlife, birds and pollinators. Native plants are a great benefit to any landscape because they require minimal or no water once they are established. They rarely require additional fertilizers or pesticides. Native plants increase the bio-diversity of an area and they are beautiful!

If you need help selecting plants that require minimal or no water, contact a local nursery. You can also search the internet on topics such as 'Native Plants of the Oregon Coast.' Information about soil needs, space requirement and pictures of the adult plants may be shown. We also have a brochure in the office entitled 'Landscaping to Save Water' that you can pick up at no charge. There are other brochures and water-saving devices available for our customers.

## BUDGET PROCESS

It is budget season again. The Budget Officer is currently in the process of analyzing last year's budget and looking ahead to the District's needs for the 2018-19 fiscal year. Some of the budget needs include main and distribution improvements, PRV station replacement, pump station upgrade and the Master Plan update.

After the accountant and the Budget Officer have a proposed budget outlined, the Budget Committee meets. The committee is made up of the current Board of Directors and five other residents of the District who serve for three years.

## Cross Connection Program

On October 1, 1991, two homeowners in Southgate, Michigan, found parasitic worms, or nematodes, in their water. One homeowner found the worms swimming around in his bathtub when he started filling the tub for his child. He also found rust and other debris in his water. The County Health Department determined that water had back-flowed through a residential irrigation system into the public water system. An atmospheric vacuum breaker on the residential irrigation system had malfunctioned because the device's air inlet valve had stuck to the device's air inlet port. There was a water main break, which caused a vacuum in the public water system. The vacuum in the public water system sucked some water – and some nematodes – from the irrigation system into the public water system. Crews from the Department of Public Services opened fire hydrants and flushed all the water mains located three blocks north and south of where the backflow incident occurred. The County cited the owner of the irrigation system for improper installation of the system. The contractor that this resident employed to install the irrigation system did not have a permit and used a "cheap" atmospheric vacuum breaker.

All customers of HWPUD are invited to attend the Budget Committee meeting which will be held in the latter portion of May. If you would like a call informing you of that public meeting date, please call us.

## THERMAL EXPANSION PROTECTION

Protection from thermal expansion is provided in a plumbing system by the installation of a thermal expansion tank in the hot water system piping downstream of the hot water and a temperature and pressure relief valve (T&P Valve) at the top of the tank. The thermal expansion tank controls the increased pressure generated within the normal operating temperature range of the water heater. The small tank with a sealed compressible air cushion provides a space to store and hold the additional expanded water volume.

The T&P Valve is the primary safety feature for the water heater. The temperature portion of the portion of the T&P Valve is designed to open and vent water to the atmosphere whenever the water temperature within the tank reaches approximately 210 °F (99°C). Venting allows cold water to enter the tank.

The pressure portion of a T&P Valve is designed to open and vent to the atmosphere whenever water pressure within the tank exceeds the pressure setting on the valve. The T&P Valve is normally pre-set at 125 psi or 150 psi.

Water heaters installed in compliance with the current plumbing code will have the required T&P Valve and thermal expansion tank. For public health protection, HWPUD may require the installation of a check valve or backflow preventer downstream of the water meter. In these situations, it is essential that a T&P Valve and thermal expansion tank be properly installed and maintained in the plumbing system.

If you have questions about thermal expansion protection, call us or contact a plumber.

## BACKFLOW INCIDENT

In our Cross Connection Program column (to the left) I shared an article that may seem like it's from long ago and far away. However, it can happen anytime and anywhere. Although it may seem to be a bother to fill out the questionnaire that HWPUD will send to you, or an unnecessary expense to test your backflow devices every year, you are doing your part in protecting the public water system that serves you and your neighbors. If you have any questions about our backflow program, call Vickie Kennedy, Cross-Connection Coordinator at 541-997-2446 or email her at v.kennedy@hwpud.com.

## EXTRA SERVICES

HWPUD has a notary on staff. If you are in need of notary services, drop in at the office Monday through Friday any time between 8:00 am to 4:00pm.

If you have a small group that would like to be First Aid/CPR trained, contact Vickie Kennedy for more information.

