



District News

June 2015

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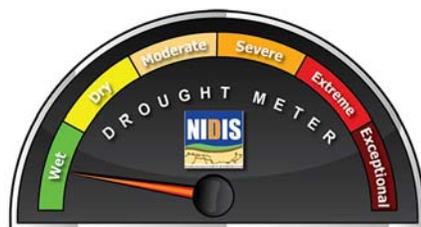
Also in this issue...

- What every homeowner needs to know about their sewer system
- How to prevent and deal with sewer clogs and backups

Stage 1 Drought Restrictions Lifted

Fort Worth Water, our major water supplier, notified its wholesale customers that Stage 1 Drought Restrictions are lifted as of May 18, 2015. With the significant amount of rain our area has received over the last months, combined lake levels have topped 95%, which is the level necessary to trigger the end of Stage 1.

According to the U.S. Drought Monitor's May 12 report, for the first time since July 2012 Exceptional Drought has been eliminated from Texas and Oklahoma, and the long-term drought impact line has shifted off our area. If you enter our zip code in the "Drought in your backyard" section at <http://www.drought.gov/drought/> the meter actually shows "WET!"



This welcome relief from the latest drought does not eliminate the need for water conservation or the ever-increasing demand on our limited water supplies. In compliance with Fort Worth Water's conservation measures, Trophy Club's Drought Contingency and Emergency Water

Management Plan includes permanent, year-round water restrictions. Although other restrictions from Stage 1 have been lifted, there is no change to the twice per week watering schedule. Please only water outdoors as follows:

- ◆ Residential addresses ending in even numbers may water on Wednesday and Saturday.
- ◆ Residential addresses ending in odd numbers may water on Thursday and Sunday.
- ◆ Non-residential locations (commercial, HOA, common areas, medians, etc.) may water on Tuesday and Friday.
- ◆ No watering is permitted on Monday.
- ◆ No watering is permitted between 10:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. on any day.

These restrictions are mandatory and will be enforced in accordance with Section XI of the Plan. Enforcement includes written warnings and possible administrative penalties for subsequent violations. Violations are also subject to citations issued by law enforcement and/or disconnection of water service with a reconnection charge of \$200 in addition to the administrative penalty.

The complete Plan is available on our website at www.tcmud.org.

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What You Should Know About Your Sewer System

The District maintains approximately 60 miles of sewer lines within its boundaries and those of the Town of Trophy Club Public Improvement District. From your property, sewage flows to the wastewater treatment plant through a combination of gravity flow and 10 lift stations. Daily checks at each lift station and operations of the wastewater treatment plant occur 365 days a year in rain, snow or sun. Staff also routinely monitors the grease in the collection system throughout town to keep the sewer mains clear.

From a home to the point where the line connects to the sewer main, the responsibility for maintaining and repairing the sewer pipes rests with the owner of the property. Some homeowners experience sewer blockages on their property due to grease, non-flushable objects like paper towels, or most commonly tree roots infiltrating their private sewer lines. It is also possible for pipes to sag or collapse over time or to break when excavation work is done.

Many homeowners have their lines periodically de-rooted by professionals using a physical device or chemical treatment. There are also chemical products for roots and flushable enzyme-based drain cleaners that are available for consumer use.

An Ounce of Prevention

When it comes to your sewer pipes, an ounce of prevention can be worth a pound of cure.

- Don't put grease, fats or oils in any drain, and avoid coffee grounds and eggshells. Dispose of these materials in the garbage. Scrape your plates and wipe out pans before putting them in the sink.
- Don't flush baby wipes, tampons, napkins, paper towels, cotton swabs or other solid materials. Toilets are meant to handle solid and liquid bodily waste and reasonable amounts of toilet paper.
- Know where your sewer and water lines are located before digging. Plan your landscaping to keep invasive roots away, and consider removing plants or trees that chronically get into the sewer line.
- Locate your sewer cleanout so you can get to it quickly in an emergency. It will probably look like a white PVC pipe sticking out of the ground with a square knob on the lid. This may be on the front or back side of the home, depending on where your line connects to the sewer main. The District has flags you can place at the site to make it visible under leaves, snow or ice.
- Consider installing a "pop-off cap" on the sewer cleanout. These devices work on pressure and are designed to pop off automatically if a backup occurs. This will relieve the backup to spill into the yard instead of inside your home causing costly damage. If installing a pop-off cap, remember that the seal on the cap has a limited life span and may need to be replaced every couple of years.
- Contact your insurance agent to discuss the coverage included in your homeowners' policy. The District is not responsible for damage caused by a sewer backup in your home. Adding a sewer backup endorsement policy to your insurance is a low-cost way to protect your home investment!

If you notice the following warning signs of a partial sewer blockage it's time to call a professional to have your pipes cleared of debris or replaced.

- Toilets that are difficult or slow flush
- A gurgling or glugging noise in the toilet or drains
- Slow drains, especially during high volume use

If the Worst Happens

If sewage starts backing up into your shower or other drains you need to take immediate action.

1. Go outside and use a wrench to remove the lid on the sewer cleanout so the sewage flows out into the yard instead of into your home.
2. Notify the District by calling (682) 831-4600. This number is answered 24/7 for water and sewer emergencies and the dispatcher can send on-call staff if a blockage exists on the District side.
3. Call a licensed plumber and get professional help on the way.