

The Tap



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President's Pipeline Preparing for Emergencies and Disasters

All Co-op members have emergency plans that are integrated into our water system plans. But how ready are you really? Are you ready for a major earthquake; or volcanic eruption, lahar, flood, or widespread serious illnesses such as the H1N1 flu virus pandemic? Are you prepared to address human-caused hazards like acts of violence by people and acts of terrorism? We are first responders, and we are supposed to be able to help our customers during emergencies and disasters.

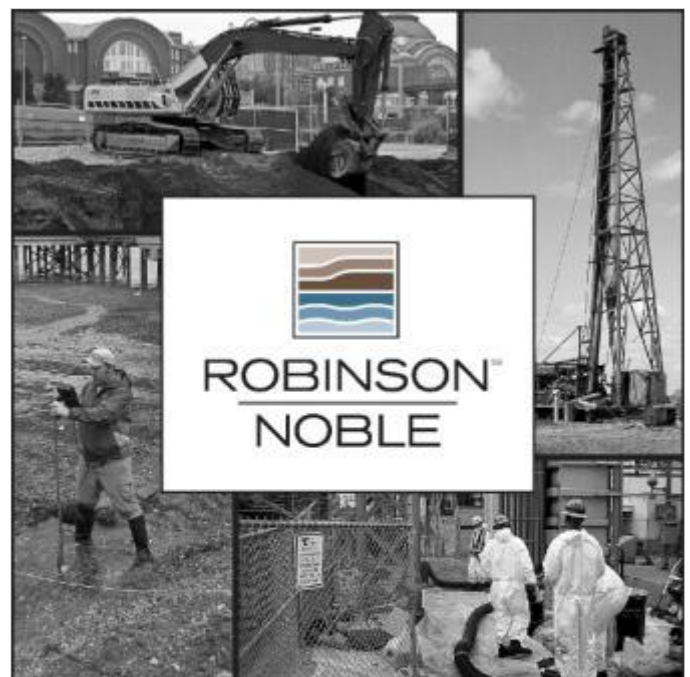
Do you have organizational and individual and family emergency plans in place? Are you prepared with mutual aid agreements so you can ask for mutual aid, and do you have agreements and on-call contracts set up? Can you operate without your computers? Do you have an emergency back-up generator and fuel for 30 days? I can tell you that our utility is not ready.

What are some basic things we can all do?

1. Join Washington WARN. WAWARN is a Water/Wastewater Agency Response Network that allows water and wastewater systems to receive rapid mutual aid and assistance from other utilities systems in an emergency or disaster. Utilities sign the WARN standard agreement

which then allows them to share resources with any other system in Washington that has also signed the agreement. The web site is <https://wawarn.org/> and it is free and easy to join.

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Water Quality Incident Response

A Case Study by MTVE Water

Water quality is always the priority when maintaining any water distribution system. The management of replacing aging infrastructure, pump and reservoir maintenance, operating system upgrades, CAD and meter-reading technology advancements, along with product improvements are all performed in the name of water quality and public safety. All water purveyors must also take routine compliance samples of their system to ensure potability and compliance with the standards set and regulated by the Department of Health (DOH), the governing

agency.

For a non-chlorinated system, such as Mt. View-Edgewood Water Company, 2015 found us faced with many challenges that a chlorinated system may find less problematic. As one of Washington state's largest non-chlorinated systems, our Board's highest priority is to avoid having DOH mandate chlorination due to repeated failed compliance samplings. Mandating chlorination can be a consequence of multiple violations (hits) during compliance sampling within a 12-month period.

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President's Pipeline

Preparing for Emergencies and Disasters

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- Build emergency supply kits for your employees (see last issue: [Summer 2016](#))
- Begin getting ready at the individual and the organization level. A great web site to begin the process is at <https://www.ready.gov/> a web site developed by Homeland Security.
- Download the 73-page document, *Emergency Planning for First Responders and their Families*, a FEMA document at <https://www.ready.gov/responder>. This document will help provide the tools needed to help your staff get ready individually and at the utility level. You can use it to help get your utility ready. Check out <https://www.ready.gov/business> for more insights.
- Utilize the EPA publication EPA 600/R-11/054 *Planning for an Emergency Drinking Water Supply* to begin planning how to address providing water during a crisis.
- Check out the AWWA M19 Manual *Emergency Planning for Water Utility Management*.
- Have a communications plan for your utility, employees, and board members. We now have radios to speak with each other and are working on a way to communicate directly with the Pierce County Emergency Operations Center, so we can help with water and get help from public works, sheriff, police, and fire departments.

One thing I know is that our utility is not prepared and we need to get ready as quickly as we can. Lives are at stake. It is very hard to prepare for emergencies and disasters when dealing with high-pressure priorities and major issues every day; but I know I must make the time to get our staff ready, help them get their families ready, and get our utility ready for the emergency or disaster that we hope will never happen.

Getting prepared for disasters and emergencies would be a great 2017 New Year's Resolution!

John Weidenfeller
 Vice President, RWPC
 General Manager,
 Public Utility District
 No. 1 of Thurston
 County

Water Quality Incident Response

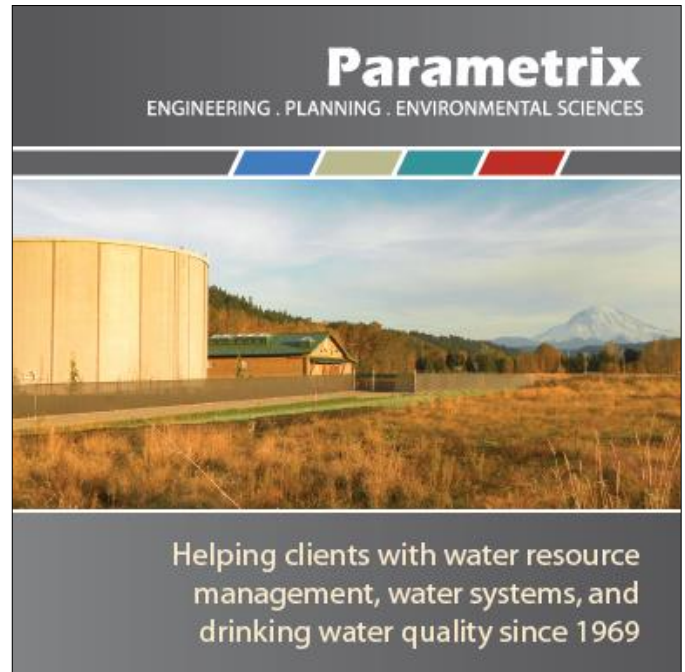
A Case Study by MTVE Water

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In July of 2015, we received notice from the lab of a coliform presence in routine compliance samples. These samples were taken a few days after a brush fire near the south reservoirs – the same area where the coliform present samples were taken. Immediately, we retested to confirm the contamination or show that it was sampling or other error. After confirming the contamination, we began to assess the situation, find the source of the contamination, and contact DOH and Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department to report the situation. DOH proved to be a steadfast partner in

brain-storming possible sources of the contamination, possible solutions, and measures to avoid future hits. Following a complete assessment of the system, we determined that smoke and soot from the house fire days earlier had been pulled into the reservoir through the vents. Our south reservoirs were drained, disinfected, and brought back online all within a couple of weeks of the initial notification.

In September of 2015, we received another contaminant notification. We repeated the measures taken above, maintaining close



communication with DOH. We used them as a soundboard for ideas in our search for the source and welcomed their suggestions knowing their history of troubleshooting contamination hits with the many other water distribution systems they are responsible for overseeing. Again, the source was found to be one of our reservoirs and we took it offline for cleaning and disinfection. Being the governing authority, the arrival of DOH can instill fear of consequence much like bringing home a poor report card to your strict parents. The Department of Health is not just in the position of enforcing compliance, but they are also very well suited to assist purveyors in meeting the stringent

standards in place for providing the public safe drinking water. Who better to share the trials and tribulations of others' mishaps throughout the years and who better to guide you through the proper procedures to take? In both instances, DOH staff worked with us as a partner in finding and resolving the situations at hand. They were the friend we needed to help get us back on track. We continue to take great pride in maintaining our chemical-free water to our suburban community.

Stephanie Christel-Lewis
Office Manager
Mt. View-Edgewood
Water Company



2017 Meetings & Events

March 9	Host: City of Milton – 1000 Laurel Street, Milton, WA 98354
March 10	<u>South Sound Best Tasting Water and Meter Madness Competitions</u>
March 14	<u>Tacoma-Pierce County Children's Water Festival</u>
April 13	Host: Lakewood Water District – 11900 Gravelly Lake Drive SW, Lakewood, WA 98499
May 11	Host: Tacoma Public Utilities – 3628 So. 35th Street, Tacoma, WA 98409
June 8	Host: Parkland Light & Water – 12918 Park Avenue S, Tacoma, WA 98444
July 13	Host: Fruitland Water – 4001 9th Street SW, Puyallup, WA 98373
Aug. 10	Host: Town of Steilacoom – 2701 Chambers Creek Road, Steilacoom, WA 98388 (Annual BBQ and meeting)
Sept. 14	Host: Rainier View Water – 5410 189th ST E, Puyallup, WA 98375
Oct. 12	Host: Mt. View-Edgewood Water – 11610 32nd Street E, Edgewood, WA 98372
Nov. 9	Host: City of Puyallup – 1100 39th Ave SE, Puyallup, WA 98374
Dec. 14	Host: TBD – Annual Meeting and Dinner at 6:00 pm

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RWCPC Committees

The Regional Water Cooperative of Pierce County has seven standing committees:

Communications/Social

Chair: [Christie Butler](#)

Emergency Management

Chair: [Jacki Masters](#)

Equipment/Resource Sharing

Chair: [Ben Ames](#)

Executive

Chair: [Larry Jones](#)

Legislative

Chair: [Jeff Johnson](#)

Technical

Chair: [Michael Lubovich](#)

Water Quality

Chair: [Craig Downs](#)

Please contact our committee chairs with your questions or suggestions. Your input will help us serve you better!

New Email Address for RWCPC

Some of the State and county agencies that we communicate with and some of our own members have had ongoing problems opening our email attachments.

In order to resolve this issue, we are switching from the Mail Chimp email program to Google mail, or Gmail.

By now, you should have received an email from our new address, asking you to reply so we can ensure you have the new email address.

If you have not seen an email yet, please check your junk folder.

We have run some tests in advance, and it appears this new email address will be successful for everyone.

So, what's the new email address?

RWCPC.1966@gmail.com

Thank you for your help with this change. If you use the email address katmc@live.com, your email will still go to Executive Assistant Kathy Crawford, and she will respond to you.



Brett Wise

Owen Equipment Sales **Website:** OwenEquipment.com

Phone: (253) 852-5819 **Cell:** (253) 249-6369

Address: 8721 S. 218th St Kent, WA 98033

Email: bwise@owenequipment.com



Happening Soon

South Sound Subsection PNWS-AWWA Event Best Tasting Water and Meter Madness Competition

All Utilities in the South Sound area are encouraged to participate. The winner in this competition will have the honor of competing for the title of "Best in the Northwest" at the 2017 AWWA PNWS conference.

When:

Friday, March 10, 2017 from 6:00 PM to 9:00 PM

Where:

Parametrix Puyallup Office
1019 39th Ave SE #100
Puyallup, WA 98374

Children's Water Festival

The Children's Water Festival is an annual event that brings 5th graders from around Pierce County for a day of learning about water quality and conservation.

When:

Tuesday, March 14, 2017 from 8:00 AM to 3:00 PM

Where:

University of Puget Sound

Will You Be Ordering Pipe Soon?

Ted Hardiman of Fruitland Mutual Water Company is planning to purchase pipe this spring and would like to combine orders with other members.

Our Equipment/Resource Sharing Committee is looking into the price of pipe and possible volume discounts.

If you are interested in placing an order for pipe, contact Ted Hardiman at (253) 405-9215 or ted@fruitlandwater.com.

2016 Annual Meeting Photos

After weather cancelled our Annual Meeting & Dinner in December, we held our 2016 event in January 2017. We offer our thanks to our Communications/Social Committee for their hard work in setup and rescheduling. Our Committee Chairs gave us an overview of the past year, helping us understand how our members benefit from working together. Please join us in thanking our Contributing Partners. Their donations of raffle prizes make these meetings even better!

