

AUGUST 2011 NEWSLETTER



Visit our website at <u>www.harriscountywcid36.com</u> for links to all our water conservation programs, Water Smart, Water IQ and WaterSense. Also, please remember to monitor your water bill for unusually high use. Your bill and water meter are tools that can help you discover leaks which will save you money. "Water, Use It Wisely"!

There is a Burn Ban in effect for all areas of unincorporated Harris County. Burning is a violation and is a Class "C" misdemeanor, punishable for up to a \$500 fine. Any peace officer can issue a citation for violation of Section 352.081 of the Local Government Code. In addition, you are responsible for any damage caused by a fire you start. Please report burning to: Harris county Pollution Control Services 713-920-2831 or email at Pollution.Control@pcs.hctx.net. Please be aware the District has implemented a "Voluntary Water Restrictions" during the drought conditions and we hope everyone takes part in the conservation awareness.

"Hurricane Season is Here"

History teaches that a lack of hurricane awareness and preparation are common denominators among all major hurricane disasters. By knowing your vulnerability and what actions you should take, you can reduce the effects of a hurricane disaster. Officially, the Atlantic hurricane season is from June 1st to November 30th, but as the Atlantic Oceanographic and Meteorological Laboratory (AOML) notes: "There is nothing magical in these dates, and hurricanes have occurred outside of these six months, but these dates were selected to encompass over 97% of tropical activity." For this reason everyone needs to have an emergency plan in place. The District reviews and updates the District's emergency response plan several times a year. Also, most of the time when a hurricane or weather related disaster takes place the District will lose power. When this happens we ask everyone to conserve water at all times, but especially during an emergency. Water conservation also helps with large water bills. If the District were to lose power or water pressure we will have magnetic signs and banners placed at the office and water plant sites with information concerning the water quality. In addition to an emergency plan everyone should prepare an emergency kit. The following are a few of the items that we suggest to include in your emergency awareness kit:

- Foods (canned goods & non-perishable foods) which do not need cooking-enough for 3 days.
- Drinking water in non breakable containers (at least 1 gallon per person per day).
- Identification, cash, valuable papers, insurance policies & photos in a waterproof container.
- Flashlight and extra batteries for radio and flashlights.
- Battery-operated radio with an all weather radio.
- Personal hygiene items, such as: soap, deodorant, shampoo, toothbrush, toothpaste.
- Diapers, washcloth, feminine products, towels, a change of clothing and extra pair of shoes.
- Infant care items, such as: formula, food, and disposable wipes.
- Personal aids, such as: eyeglasses, hearing aids, and batteries, prosthetic devices, etc.
- Utensils, such as: manual can opener, disposable plates, cups, forks, knives paper towels.
- Sleeping bag or blanket, sheet & pillow one per person.
- First aid kit, Prescription medications, band-aids, nonprescription medications, and insect repellent.

If anyone needs transportation to leave his or her home in the event of an emergency, please register ahead of time with the City of Houston by dialing 2-1-1 for evacuation transportation. Trained specialists will take personal contact information and ask additional questions about any special medical needs that may affect the type of transportation a person needs. The Special Transportation Registry is open year-round for registration and available 24 hours/day 7 days/week in multiple languages with alternate number (877) 541-7905. Any individuals who need assistance may discuss available options with a specialist and learn about services in their local area. During disaster events, 2-1-1 is activated by local and state emergency management officials to announce official information about shelter availability, evacuation routes, road closures, and other important information about the circumstances.

Garbage collection days are Wednesday and Saturday; please have your trash out to the street by 7:00 a.m. on collection day. Trash collection includes **household trash and lawn waste only**, in containers, which are limited to two containers per residence. To contact the trash company directly call telephone number 281-368-8397.

"A Recognized SUPERIOR WATER DISTRICT and a 'WATER SMART' Participant" "Thank you for your continued support" Board of Directors of Harris County W.C. & I.D. No. 36

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