

Irvine Ranch Water District Pipelines

The Newsletter of Irvine Ranch Water District / April 2006
Volume 2006 Number 04

Don't Be Afraid to Ask for Identification

The Irvine Police Department warns that there are a variety of scams in the community involving people going door-to-door misrepresenting themselves to the public, often as a utility worker. It's important for you to know to whom you are opening your door and whether or not that person is there legitimately.

If someone knocks on your door claiming to be an Irvine Ranch Water District (IRWD) employee, don't be afraid to ask for identification or to call IRWD and verify that the employee is who he or she claims to be. Every IRWD employee carries a photo identification badge. When in doubt, ask the person to return to your home after you have had an opportunity to follow

continued inside...

Is Your Earthquake Kit Ready?

April has been designated as Earthquake Preparedness Month in California to commemorate the 1906 quake and to heighten awareness that we live in earthquake country. The first 72 hours following an earthquake are critical, so you should be prepared to be self-sufficient for at least that long. **A supply of stored water may be your most important survival item. Several gallons of stored water per person can last two weeks.**

Water should be stored in carefully cleaned, non-corrosive, tightly covered containers. Commercially bottled water is one option. Containers of heavy, opaque plastic with screw-on caps are best if you bottle your own water. All stored water should be clearly labeled and the water replenished every six months.

After a quake, tap water could be polluted. Water that is boiled for five minutes will usually be safe from contamination. If boiling is not an option, strain the water through paper towels, paper coffee filters, or several layers of clean cloth to remove any sediment. Treat the water with household **liquid** chlorine bleach. Add eight drops of bleach per one gallon of clear water or 16 drops if the water is cloudy. Be sure to include

continued inside...

A Day at the Marsh



IRVINE RANCH WATER DISTRICT
45TH ANNIVERSARY

A Day at the Marsh...Mark Your Calendar!

Saturday, June 10, 2006

9 a.m. to noon

San Joaquin Wildlife Sanctuary

Guided tours of the Marsh • Environmental-oriented displays • Photo Contest Display (entries must be received by Monday, May 15 at 5 p.m.) • Refreshments and much, much more! For more information visit www.irwd.com.

HIT US WITH YOUR BEST SHOTS!

Irvine Ranch Water District (IRWD) invites all amateur photographers to enter its first San Joaquin Marsh photo contest. The photo contest will be held to highlight IRWD's "A Day at the Marsh," a celebration of the water district's 45th Anniversary. Winners will be announced at this event at the San Joaquin Wildlife Sanctuary on Saturday, June 10, 2006 from 9 a.m. to noon.

To obtain an entry form and list of official rules, please visit the IRWD Web site at www.irwd.com, e-mail webmaster@irwd.com or call (949) 453-5500.

Entries must be received by Monday, May 15, 2006 at 5 p.m.

Water Conservation Tips



- This is the growing season for most plants, making it the optimal time to fertilize. For this growth stage, look for a balanced, organic fertilizer.
- Water deeply to encourage deep root growth. Aerating your lawn can also improve root growth. Orange County has predominantly heavy clay soils, which absorbs water at a slower rate. To get the deep water penetration, try watering for short periods twice or even three times in one day at least an hour apart. This watering pattern produces better root growth than watering a little every day. Aerating your lawn can also improve root growth.
- Water your lawn when it needs it. Check by stepping on the grass. If it springs back up when you move, it doesn't need water. If it stays flat, use the sprinkler. See suggested watering schedule. Trees and shrubs generally require about half (some shrubs, even less) of what the lawn needs. If you're watering every day, you're providing more than most plants need. Check the moisture of the soil 3-6" below the surface. With our heavy clay soils, the surface may look dry, but the clay remains moist beneath the surface.
- Prevent runoff: Landscapers may turn sprinkler controllers up too high. Watch for runoff and check for broken sprinkler heads. Runoff will carry fertilizers into the storm drain and contribute to pollution in our waterways.

Suggested Weekly Watering Schedule for the months of April and May

Weekly Watering Schedule for SPRAY HEAD IRRIGATION SYSTEMS

APRIL

Turf grass: 2-3 days, 1-3 cycles* of 2-4 minutes
Trees, shrubs, groundcover: 2 days, 2 cycles* of 4 minutes
Percent option: 70%**

MAY

Turf grass: 2-4 days, 2-3 cycles* of 3-4 minutes
Trees, shrubs, groundcover: 2 days, 3 cycles* of 3 minutes
Percent option: 80%**

**By "cycling" your irrigation timer to turn on for the suggested number of minutes an hour apart, you reduce runoff and gain deeper watering and healthier root growth. Start with this weekly schedule and increase the times only if your plants show signs of stress. If stress occurs only in isolated areas, check your irrigation system before increasing the time. Spring is the most active growth period for turf grass and other plants. Be sure to water adequately.*

***Some irrigation controllers have a feature by which the watering time can be set by changing the percentage instead of specifically entering the days, cycles and minutes.*

If you don't have the instructions for your controller, check the manufacturer's website. Many controller manufacturers provide online access to the owner's manual.

35 Ways to Save the Planet

Celebrate Irvine's 35th year by discovering 35 ways to save the planet at www.cityofirvine.org!

You can start celebrating today with these energy conservation tips:

- Replace the 4 lights you use most often with compact fluorescent lights (CFLs) and save up to \$35 a year in energy costs.
- Use major appliances before 12:00 noon and after 7:00 p.m. Visit the *Flex Your Power Now* web site at www.fypower.org for more information.
- Install a programmable thermostat. On cold days, set the thermostat to 68 degrees when you are home and turn it off when you are away. Lowering the temperature 3-5 degrees can save you 10-20% on your heating bill.
- Install low-flow showerheads to conserve water and save 5-10 percent on water heating costs. Showers can account for up to 50% of your hot water usage.

CITY OF IRVINE
35
INSPIRED BY VISION. PLANNED FOR SUCCESS.

Advertisement provided by the City of Irvine. Free low-flow showerheads available at Irvine Ranch Water District.

continued from page one...

Is Your Earthquake Kit Ready?

an eyedropper in your emergency kit. **Do not use granular forms of household bleach; they are poisonous.** Mix water and bleach thoroughly and let stand for 30 minutes. Purify only enough water at a time to last a maximum of 48 hours.

You should also learn how to shut off gas, water and electricity. To shut off the water, look for the main valve where water enters the property, usually in a concrete box near the street. Lift the cover and then use a crescent wrench to turn off the water. Some valves have a circular grip that can be turned clockwise to shut the water off and no special tools are needed. Mark the shut-off valve with fluorescent paint or tape so you can find it in the dark.

Preparation for early response to any damage that might occur is a top priority for IRWD. We have a comprehensive emergency response plan, which is routinely reviewed and revised. District employees regularly participate in emergency preparedness drills. After the 1994 Northridge quake, crews from IRWD were dispatched to assist in repairing the earthquake-damaged pipelines, which provided valuable real-world emergency response experience for many of our employees.

.....
continued from page one...

Don't Be Afraid to Ask for Identification

up on their identity.

IRWD Customer Service field crews and members of the IRWD Conservation team often go to homes to collect delinquent payments, or to conduct residential conservation audits requested by the customer.

IRWD employees will never ask you to turn over any of your valuables to them. If the person claiming to work for IRWD, or any other utility, asks you to hand over any valuables, that person is not legitimate. Do not give the person anything and be sure to contact your local law enforcement agency to file a report.

Most IRWD field crews wear an IRWD T-shirt or IRWD uniform shirt with the logo above the left-hand pocket and employee's name embroidered on the shirt. IRWD overalls also bear a District logo. IRWD Conservation team employees usually wear polo shirts with an IRWD logo embroidered on the left side. IRWD contracts with Southern California Edison for meter reading services and those employees wear SCE uniforms and wear SCE photo ID badges as well.

MARSH MINUTES...

Marsh's Urban Forest Established for Earth Day's 20th Anniversary

(This is part of a continuing series designed to better familiarize our customers with Irvine Ranch Water District's San Joaquin Marsh and Wildlife Sanctuary.)

It's not uncommon to observe Earth Day with a tree planting. To commemorate the 20th anniversary of the day's founding in 1990, some IRWD employees took planting trees to a new level – they created an urban forest with about 150 trees.

This special "Earth Day 1990" event was IRWD's participation in Global Releaf, a nationwide environmental effort designed to encourage the planting of millions of trees throughout the U.S. "Tree Hill," as the urban forest is sometimes best known, sits above Riparian View Road in the San Joaquin Marsh and includes the first trails that were eventually incorporated into the Marsh's current 12-mile trail network.

"We wanted to include a wide variety of trees," said Lou Denger, IRWD's marsh expert. "Many are native species."

There are acacias, sycamores, oaks, alders, redwoods, crepe myrtles, Tecate cypresses, poplars, cottonwoods and several species of pines. The trees were planted on several Saturdays by IRWD employees and their families. There are also blueberry and boysenberry patches that attract berry pickers in the late spring and early summer.

The urban forest is one of many peaceful locations in the Marsh. Enjoy views of the San Diego Creek, the Marsh and the golf course while you relax on a bench.



IRWD OFFICES WILL BE CLOSED ON THE FOLLOWING HOLIDAY:

- Monday, May 29, 2006

SHADETREE PARTNERSHIP EVENTS

Community service hours are available for all volunteer tree planting activities. For more information call (949) 453-5670 or visit their Web site at www.shadetreepartnership.org.

Irvine Family Fund Fair and Run • Saturday, April 29

Run check-in at 6:30 a.m. - Run begins at 8 a.m. - Fun Fair from 9 a.m. to noon.
Run check-in at Irvine Civic Center

Hosted by more than 60 community partners, this year's event highlights public safety, preparedness, and the community's commitment to prevention. Activities include a morning 5K Fun Run (or walk, your choice!); food, games and activity booths; health screenings and a child's area. Admission is FREE. Proceeds from the Fun Run and the Pancake Breakfast benefit alcohol, tobacco, and other drug and violence prevention programs in Irvine. Visit www.irvinefun.org for more information.

O.C. Arthritis Foundation - Walk for a Cure • Saturday, May 13

Help someone by joining for the Orange County Arthritis Foundation Walk for a Cure at the Huntington Beach Pier. Help raise awareness of America's leading cause of disability, while raising funds to prevent, control and cure arthritis. There are a number of ways you can participate and you can find out how by calling the Orange County Arthritis Foundation office at (714) 436-1623 or visit the website: www.ocarthritiswalk.kintera.org.

Irvine Chamber Honors Active Military Personnel at Hot Rodz of Irvine and Chili Challenge - Saturday, May 20 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at Park Place

Hot Rodz of Irvine and Chili Challenge will feature pre-1972 hot rods, muscle cars, and custom cars along with a chili cook-off. Attendees will enjoy live music, view hundreds of cars, taste gallons of chili and can vote for their favorite chili team. A play zone filled with games and activities will be set up for children to encourage the entire family to attend. Admission is \$5 per person. Active military personnel and children 12 and under will be admitted at no charge. Event parking is free. More information about the event can be found at www.hotrodzofirvine.com or by calling (949) 660-9112, Ext. 128.

FAMILIES FORWARD NEWS

At Families Forward, at least 40 families arrive each week to collect needed groceries. Presently, food items needed at the pantry include jam/jelly, canned fruit (all types), canned pasta, honey, boxed potatoes, plain rice (1 lb bags), juice, juice boxes, pancake mix, cake mixes/frosting, canned chicken, pork and beans, canned stew, dried beans, cornbread and muffin mix, dishwashing soap, laundry soap, toothpaste, tooth brushes, size 5/6 (large) disposable diapers. These items can be brought to the Families Forward facility at 9221 Irvine Blvd., Irvine between 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Thursday, and 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Friday. Call (949) 552-2727 for directions. All donations are greatly appreciated.

As a service to residents we feature a calendar of community events in "Pipelines." Events or activities of community-wide interest can be included in the calendar on a space available basis. We reserve the right to print those items of most interest to the public. If your group has an event you would like to include, please submit written information at least two months prior to your event. Please include date, time, place, contact person's name and telephone number. Mail your request to: Public Affairs Department, IRWD, P.O. Box 57000, Irvine, CA 92619-7000, fax your request to (949) 453-0527, or e-mail your request to velazque@irwd.com.

The mission of Irvine Ranch Water District, a public agency, is to provide reliable, high quality water and sewer service in an efficient, cost effective manner and environmentally sensitive way that provides a high level of customer satisfaction.

IRWD Board of Directors

Peer A. Swan, President
Douglas J. Reinhart, V.P.
Mary Aileen Matheis
Darryl G. Miller
John B. Withers

General Manager

Paul D. Jones II

Pipelines

Published by the
Public Affairs Department
IRWD
P.O. Box 57000
Irvine, CA 92619-7000

For comments, suggestions or questions, call (949) 453-5500.

**24 Hour Service
(949) 453-5300**

Should you discover a disruption in your water service or other problems call the IRWD 24-hour emergency line and a representative will assist you.

Visit the IRWD Web site:

www.irwd.com

Printed on recycled paper.
Recyclable
April 2006 • 93K