

Irvine Ranch Water District Pipelines

The Newsletter of Irvine Ranch Water District / December 2007
Volume 2007 Number 12

IRWD Crews Kept Water Flowing During Santiago Fire

The Santiago Fire that ravaged Orange County kept IRWD crews across many departments working around the clock to keep the water flowing to fire fighters.

Crews were out close to the fire lines, installing generators, operating pumps and manually measuring reservoir depths in areas where power and phone lines were knocked out by the flames. Many District workers manned hoses to help protect key water facilities.

continued on page two...

Don't Let Your Holiday Meal Create a Spill!

Grease poured down drains is the leading cause of sewage spills.

Grease needs to be handled carefully all year round, but especially at this time of year. With the holidays upon us, many families are cooking special meals to share with friends and relatives. But the larger quantity of grease created by cooking a turkey, ham or roast can result in problems within your home's sewer pipes or within your neighborhood if not disposed of properly.

Never pour grease down your sink drain, toilet or garbage disposal! Instead, pour grease into a can and refrigerate or freeze until solid and then dispose of the can on trash day. An empty soup can works well for everyday cooking; however for larger holiday meals you may want to save a coffee can to hold the grease.

Wipe excess grease from pots, pans and utensils with paper towels before washing. These simple steps will help IRWD protect the environment by preventing sewer spills.



Rotating Nozzle/Synthetic Turf Rebates Now Available to Homeowners

Homeowners interested in saving water and money have two new rebate opportunities available to them.

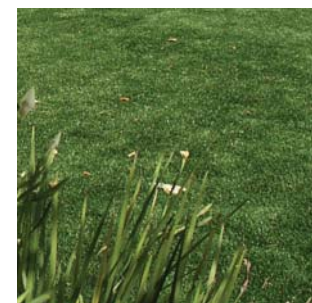
Irvine Ranch Water District is pleased to offer all residential customers two rebates that will significantly reduce the amount of water applied to their landscapes. The

first is a rebate offer of \$4/nozzle for the installation of rotating nozzles. These nozzles fit on the most common sprinklers and do not require any digging up or cutting of the existing pipe. It's as simple as removing the screw-top on a plastic bottle.

These nozzles apply water at a slower rate (which means you'll need to water a little longer). This slower application rate allows water more time to soak in, which reduces runoff. In addition, the nozzles apply water more evenly so less total water is required. More information about the nozzles is available at www.mprotator.com and www.rainbird.com.

The second rebate is for the replacement of existing lawns with synthetic turf. The new generation of synthetic turf is much improved from the old "Astroturf" of the 1970s. With life-like blades of grass that are available in a variety of heights and textures, synthetic turf may be of interest to anyone who is ready to get rid of their polluting gas mowers and edgers, while saving water.

Applications for either rebate are available at www.irwd.com.



continued from page one...

IRWD Crews Kept Water Flowing During Santiago Fire

Because of the effort by IRWD staff members, there was never a water outage, so fire fighters never had to worry about hoses running dry. IRWD supplied an estimated 10 million gallons of water per day to help fight the fire.

The fire broke out the evening of Oct. 21 and wasn't declared contained until Nov. 8 by the Orange County Fire Authority. In the days during the disaster, IRWD crews were on the spot, wherever they were needed to ensure the flow of water.

"Losing 11 homes is terrible, but one could not have survived without a dependable water supply," said Bruce Newell, a former Santiago County Water District board member and volunteer fire fighter. "IRWD had a good plan, the plan was executed well and the plan worked."



IRWD crews set up generators to keep water pumps operating after fire knocked out power in Silverado Canyon.



Smoldering brush near a key pump station is sprayed by IRWD crews.

Harvard Avenue Trunk Sewer Project



IRWD is expanding the Harvard Avenue Trunk Sewer pipeline. By extending this service line, IRWD will collect and transfer the wastewater to nearby Michelson Water Reclamation Plant for treatment and recycled water production. Recycled water is used for landscape irrigation on golf courses, parks, school grounds, green belts and street medians.



- **Too much water can stress plants and leave them susceptible to disease.** According to the California Association of Nurserymen, more plants are lost due to over-watering than to any other cause. If you think you need to water, 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.
- **Avoid fertilizing your lawn this month.** Fertilizers applied during this time of year are more likely to get washed away by rain, contributing to pollution in the waterways. Cool seasons lawns can be fertilized in the spring and fall; warm season lawns can be fertilized in late spring and summer.
- **Cut back roses.**
- **Bare root season for fruit trees and roses.** Water to keep the plants moist, but not wet. Water deeply, not frequently. Build a mound 3-4" high around the planting hole and hand water the new plants directly in the early morning.

Suggested Weekly Watering Schedule

Weekly Watering Schedule for SPRAY HEAD IRRIGATION SYSTEMS

DECEMBER & JANUARY

Turf grass: 2 days, 2 cycles* of 2 minutes

Trees, shrubs, groundcover:

1 day, 2 cycles* of 3 minutes

Percent option: 30%**

Turn water off when it rains and let soil dry before turning water on again.

*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.

**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.

Irvine Ranch Water District will be closed for the following holidays:

- Monday and Tuesday, December 24 & 25, 2007
- Monday, December 31, 2007 and Tuesday, January 1, 2008

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. **Online registration now available!**

SEA AND SAGE AUDUBON EVENTS

- **Become a member** of the National Audubon Society and the Sea and Sage Audubon Chapter. For more information visit their web site at www.seaandsageaudubon.org or call the Audubon House at (949) 261-7963.

FAMILIES FORWARD

- **Adopt-A-Family Program** - The holiday season is upon us - a very difficult time for many families who are in crisis. The Adopt-A-Family Program helps families enjoy the holiday season in December. This program matches a donor to a family in need and is given the family's wish list. Donors purchase items from the family's wish list and bring them to the Families Forward office. Families Forward insures that the recipient family receives the gifts prior to the holidays. To learn how you can contribute to this program e-mail Annie Harrington at aharrington@families-forward.org or call (949) 552-2727, Ext. 231. Gift cards to grocery stores, Target, Mervyns, Costco and gas cards are also greatly appreciated. Help brighten the holidays for a family in need.
- *Families Forward exists to help families in need achieve and maintain self-sufficiency through housing, counseling, education and other support services.*

ASSISTANCE LEAGUE OF IRVINE

- **Assistance League of Irvine Thrift and Gift Shop** - 17801 Main Street, Suite H (Sky Park South), Irvine, (949) 955-3437. Donations welcome during normal business hours: Wednesday and Thursday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.; Friday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.
- **Win a trip for two to the 2008 NCAA Basketball Tournament Final Four and Championship Game in San Antonio, Texas - April 4-8, 2008** - \$100 a chance. In addition to the basketball tickets, the winner will receive four nights hotel accommodation for two, Avis full size car rent for four days and \$250 towards travel expenses. Drawing to be held on Wednesday, February 13, 2008 at 7 p.m. at South Lake Middle School in Irvine. For ticket information, please contact Holly Johnston at (949) 857-8720 or send e-mail to holly-jo@cox.net.
- **To learn more about Assistance League** and membership call (949) 725-9188 or visit their Web site at www.irvine.assistanceleague.org. Assistance League of Irvine is a nonprofit volunteer organization dedicated to providing programs and services that will enrich and improve the quality of life in Irvine.

LEADERSHIP TOMORROW

- Do you know someone who is an "unsung hero" who should be recognized for their community leadership activities in Irvine, Costa Mesa or Newport Beach? If so, consider nominating them for the Excellence in Community Leadership Award sponsored by Leadership Tomorrow. To make a nomination, please submit a letter with a complete description of the activities and accomplishments to be considered, a brief personal biography of the nominated individual and contact information for both the nominator and the nominee. Email nominations to info@leadershiptomorrow.org with the subject line "Awards" or mail to 1470 Jamboree Rd., Newport Beach, CA 92660. Nominations should be postmarked by Dec. 31, 2007.

CASA Volunteers Needed

- Court Appointed Special Advocates is seeking volunteers to serve as advocates and mentors for abused children. An information session will be held on Saturday, January 26 and Saturday, February 23 at the Irvine Heritage Park Library, 14361 Yale Ave. from 10 a.m. to noon. R.S.V.P. (714) 619-5155. Visit their Web site at www.casaoc.org.

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

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

General Manager

Paul D. Jones II

Pipelines

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

**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
December 2007 • 87K