



## In This Issue

### **District Water Storage Tank Damaged**

New Water Meter Installation Completed

### **Water Leak Notice**

Winterize Your Home

### **Carbon Monoxide: The Invisible Killer**

Reminder Notify District of Billing Address Change

### **Board Meetings**

At the District Office:  
Friday, November 10<sup>th</sup>, at 9:00 am  
Friday, December 8<sup>th</sup>, at 9:00 am  
Friday, January 12<sup>th</sup>, at 9:00 am  
Friday, February 9<sup>th</sup>, at 9:00 am  
Friday, March 9<sup>th</sup>, at 9:00 am

### **ASCWD**

270 Alpine Meadows Road,  
Alpine Meadows, CA 96146  
Ph: (530) 583-2342  
(800) 244-2342 (CA/NV)  
Fax: (530) 583-0228  
Email:  
[info@alpinesprings.org](mailto:info@alpinesprings.org)  
Website:  
[www.alpinesprings.org](http://www.alpinesprings.org)

### **Directors**

Janet S. Grant, President  
Jon Northrop, VP  
Evan Salke,  
David Smelser,  
Christine York

### **General Manager**

John M. Collins

**DISTRICT WATER STORAGE TANK DAMAGED** The District's 500,000 gallon water storage tank was damaged during last winters' heavy snows. One of the wood roof joists partially failed due to the heavy snow loads. After inspection by RDC, the District's tank repair contractor, the District has decided to make temporary repairs for the coming winter. The tank will then be replaced with a new steel water storage tank within the next two years, depending upon funding and permitting. The new 600,000 gallon water storage tank will replace the damaged water storage tank as well as an existing adjacent 100,000 gallon steel water storage tank. The new facilities are being coordinated with the Alpine/Squaw Valley Ski Corp. The new replacement tank will also need USDA Forest Service approval.

**NEW WATER METER INSTALLATION IS COMPLETE** The District has completed installation of over 650 new remote read meters. The District began replacing the water meters several years ago after several meters were tested and found to be under registering the amount of water being delivered. Some of the water meters were "original" meters installed in the late 1960's and were well past their useful life. The new meters can be read remotely by District personnel as they drive the meter reading route. It used to take over three weeks to read the meters. It now can be done in less than a day. The District bills annual for water service. Water bills are in the mail by the last week in June of each year. To meet that deadline water meter readings are completed by the last day in May. As was the case this year a number of the meters are still covered in snow. The remote reading capability solves this issue.

**PLEASE! PLEASE! PLEASE!** Pay attention to any notice from the District regarding a possible water leak. You should check all your water fixtures and or have a plumber check for leaks on the customer side of the water service. Several customers have experienced "high" water bills due to leaks that have been allowed to exist for extended periods of time.

### **WINTERIZE YOUR HOME**

We are hoping for a wet winter. With that in mind it seems every year, some customers find themselves without water due to frozen water pipes. Here are a few steps that you can take to avoid problems this winter:

(1) **Disconnect and drain outdoor hoses.** Disconnecting the hose allows water to drain from the supply line, which prevents an overnight freeze from bursting the faucet or the supply line.

(2) **Cover air vents.** Close or cover all air vents in the foundation wall of your home to protect pipes in the crawl space from exposure to freezing air.

(3) **Open cabinet doors.** Opening cabinet doors allows heat to get to uninsulated pipes near exterior walls.

(4) **Insulate pipes in unheated areas.** A little known fact is that hot water pipes generally freeze before cold water pipes. The water pipes that tend to be most susceptible to freezing are found in outer walls, crawl spaces, attics and garages. Exposed pipes should be insulated with items such as pipe wrap, heat tape or foam jackets. These insulating products are available at your local building supply or hardware store. Be sure to follow the manufacturer's instructions when installing these products. Call a plumber if you have any questions.

(5) **Winterize your vacant house.** If you leave your house for several days or months, help protect pipes from freezing by following these steps:

a. Turn off your water using the main shut-off valve installed on the house side of the water meter. The District encourages ALL property owners to have a main shut-off valve installed. **You may not turn off the water using the District's valve located in your meter box. Damage caused by doing so is the owner's responsibility.** Be aware that if you have a fire protection sprinkler system in your house, it will be deactivated when you shut off the water, if your shut off valve is located ahead of the fire service take off.

- b. If you drain your water heater, be sure to turn off the electricity or gas source.
- c. Open indoor and outdoor faucets to drain pipes.
- d. Drain toilets by turning off the water at the water supply located under the holding tank. Then hold down the lever until the tank empties. Add RV anti freeze to the toilet bowl.
- e. Leave your heat on at a minimum temperature of 55 degrees to help keep pipes from freezing in interior walls. Heater can fail or run out of fuel, so always turn off your home water supply.

**If your pipes do freeze, don't take chances.** If your pipes do freeze and you turn on your faucets and nothing comes out, leave the faucet on and call a plumber. If you do determine that your pipes have frozen and burst, turn off the water at the main shut-off valve, not the District's valve, and leave the faucet on. Even the most cautious homeowner may eventually experience a frozen pipe. If this happens, don't panic. A freeze-up at an exposed pipe or under a sink can generally be melted by applying heat with a hair dryer, heat lamp or even a light bulb. Light bulbs should always be protected by a cage and not be placed near flammable materials. Start warming the pipe as close to the faucet as possible. **CAUTION: NEVER TRY TO THAW A PIPE WITH A TORCH OR OTHER OPEN FLAME.** This may seem like a reasonable approach, but it is very dangerous. Thawing a line too rapidly with extreme heat can result in an explosion and may cause injury. Water damage is preferable to burning down your house.

**Get to know your plumbing.** Learn how to shut the water off and know where your pipes are located. If your pipes do freeze, time is of the essence. The quicker you can shut off the water, or direct your plumber to the problem, the better chance you have to prevent pipes from bursting.

### **CARBON MONOXIDE: THE INVISIBLE KILLER**

The North Tahoe Fire Department strongly recommends that every home be protected by at least one CO detector, which can alert you to dangerous levels of CO in your home in time to prevent poisoning. Early warning of hazardous CO levels is very important, but prevention comes first. Know what you need to do to ensure your home is safe from CO. Cooking and heating equipment and motor vehicles in attached garages make up a large percentage of the home CO problem, but portable electric generators, camp stoves and lanterns can also be culprits when not used properly.

Please check NTFIRE.NET to see a list of recalled carbon monoxide and fire alarms.

Carbon monoxide: you can't see it or smell it, but with the right actions you can stay safe from it. For non-emergency questions regarding carbon monoxide, contact the North Tahoe Fire District, Division of Fire & Life Safety at 583-6913.

**REMINDER Keep the District informed of billing address changes to avoid a 10% penalty. A Payment Plan is available if signed up by August 14th, contact the District Office at (800) 244-2342 (CA/NV) or (530) 583-2342**

ASCWD  
270 Alpine Meadows Road  
Alpine Meadows, CA 96146