



# PERDIDO BAY WATER, SEWER AND FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT NEWSLETTER

## Softer Water Means Cleaner Water!

**Inside this issue:**

Overview of PBWSFPD	2
Relay For Life	2
Recipe of the Month	2
Emergency Procedures	3
Helpful Hints	3
Where Does Your Water Go	3
Question of the Month	4

The Perdido Bay Water District has had several calls concerning the softness of the water. The reason for the softer water is due to a chemical change that was made in the treatment of the water. In the spring of 2000 we changed the chemical feed at the wells. In the past we had used chlorine gas for disinfection, lime for ph., control, aquamag for corrosion control and fluoride for dental purposes. Now we are using liquid bleach for disinfection, caustic soda a bicarbonate of soda for ph., control, sea quest for corrosion control and fluoride. The reason for changing the chemical feed was prompted by complaints from the customers about the water quality. At times the



water would be dirty or appear blue/green. This was caused from changes in the ph. The water that is pulled from the aquifers has a naturally low ph., of approx. 4.5, which is very acidic. The ideal ph., is a neutral ph., of 7.0 or above preferably around 7.3 to 7.8. This is attained by the addition of chemicals. There are primarily 3 chemicals used in the water industry for raising the ph. They are lime, soda ash, and caustic soda. Lime comes in the form of a powder and has to be mixed with water to make a slurry mix. When the slurry is mixed and injected it has a tendency to clog up the injection lines, which causes the ph., to change drastically resulting in either, 1). A low ph., which causes the water to be acidic and pulls the blue/green stain from copper tubing used in plumbing the customers houses, or 2). A high ph., which causes the water to coagulate resulting in dirty water. If any other problems persist, please feel free to call 334-987-5816.

**Special points of interest:**

- Before you dig, please call Alabama One Call @ 800-292-8525.
- Please help us, help the American Cancer Society.
- Please help our meter readers by keeping your meter box unobstructed.

### HOT TIPS OF THE MONTH

- Use your hot water efficiently. Letting water run from the faucet until it heats up is a waste. Instead of sending it down the drain, capture clean water for other uses. Insulate hot water pipes to save energy.
- Stop leaks. Twice a

year, check all faucets inside and outside for leaks. Replace worn-out fixtures, washers, O-rings, and hose connections. Turn faucets off firmly.

Leaks add up fast. Here is a leak conversion table:

- Amount leaked in 30 minutes =Gallons per Month
- 1 cup = 90 gallons
- 1 pint = 180 gallons
- 1 quart =360 gallons
- 1/2 gal =720 gallons
- 1 gal =1,440 gallons

## Overview of Perdido Bay Water, Sewer And Fire Protection District

On Dec. 2 1976, the state of Alabama granted a Certificate of Incorporation to form Perdido Bay Water, Sewer and Fire Protection District. The district is served by a board of 5 directors appointed by the County Commission. Directors are required to be property owners in the district and connected to the water system. The purpose of the Board of Directors is to set policy. The board meets on the 4th Monday of each month to consult with the General Manager and the Office Manager to review the progress and needs of the company. The General Manager is assisted by a field supervisor and 3 employees to

maintain the approx. 130 miles of underground pipe, daily test the water at the 3 wells in the system, complete approx. 130 work orders per month, read approx. 2650 meters, and maintain the grounds and equipment. The Office Manager has 2 employees to assist her in the office. In 1998 there was a rate increase, the first since 1984, due to a need to service more customers, expand to areas where developers were requesting water and plan for future expansion. The plans called for another well, another 500,000 gal., storage tank, and a new office building. In a recent un-

announced inspection by Alabama Department of Environmental Management, the Perdido Bay Water System was given as good a report as anyone has received from them. The company has a Well Head Protection Plan in effect for each of its wells, the delineation and contamination inventory portions of the Source Water Assessment Plan has been completed and approved. The company has an ongoing training program for its office and field employees. Its managers and board members attend periodic seminars to keep abreast of the latest advances in procedures and technology affecting water production, testing and distribution.



Please help us with any donations that can be made to go to the American Cancer Society.

## The American Cancer Society Relay For Life

The employees of Perdido Bay Water, Sewer & Fire Protection District are participating in the American Cancer Society's **Relay for Life**. We are asking for the community's support in these upcoming events:

- **February 24th Car Wash at the billing office on Co. Rd. 95 (RV's welcome)**
  - **April 7th—Fund Raiser Day to include a car wash, rummage sale & eats. To be held at billing office. (Items are needed for rummage sale—you sell or we sell).**
  - **Baked Goods for sale at the billing office every Monday through April 20th.**
  - **Cash Donations also accepted through April 20th.**
- All proceeds to go to the American Cancer Society's Relay for Life to be held April**

## Recipe of the Month

### \*\*ORANGE CONG. SALAD\*\*

1 box orange Jell-O  
1 3 oz pkg. Cream cheese  
3/4 c. small marshmallows  
1 sm. Can crushed pineapple  
1 sm. Can Mandarin oranges  
Cool Whip

Put orange Jell-O, cream cheese, marshmallows in dish. Add 1 c. boiling water. Drain juice off pineapple and oranges. Cut oranges in bites. Add ingredients to the mixture. Chill—top with Cool Whip

### What will Perdido Bay Water do in the event Of a Hurricane?

With hurricane season approaching, Perdido Bay Water will take the following steps to minimize the possibilities of water outages and to provide on-going continuous service to our customers.

**Generators:**

1. Will be filled with fuel.
2. Will be run and loaded.
3. 100kw Generator hooked to truck and on standby at Well #2.

**Vehicles and Equipment:**

1. Will be filled with fuel
2. Will be equipped with tools.
3. Will be loaded with supplies to make repairs.

4. Fuel tank in vehicle yard filled to capacity.

**Wells:**

1. Will be run in manual mode prior to storm to fill all storage tanks to overflow capacity.
2. Cross connection at Spanish Cove will be opened.

Once storm has passed:

1. All field employees will be gathered at maintenance office and paired up into groups of two (2) and sent out to assess any damage to wells, tanks and system. Once situation has been assessed employees will gather back at maintenance office with a list of damages. Dam-

ages will be prioritized and repaired in a timely manner.

2. Office personnel will gather at the billing office to man phones and take calls from customers reporting damage. All damage reported to the office will be communicated to the Superintendent and handled accordingly.

Perdido Bay Water is also requesting that customers who are evacuating the area turn their water off at their meter to minimize the loss of water and to prevent excessive bills. In the event that there is a water outage we ask for the customers patience and want them to know that we will do everything possible to minimize and rectify the situation

### HELPFUL HINTS TO CUSTOMERS

Leaks are frequently the cause of excessive water bills. Toilet facilities are responsible for 75% of all leaks.

will waste 170 gallons daily, 5100 gallons monthly, increasing you bill by \$26.95 in a month.

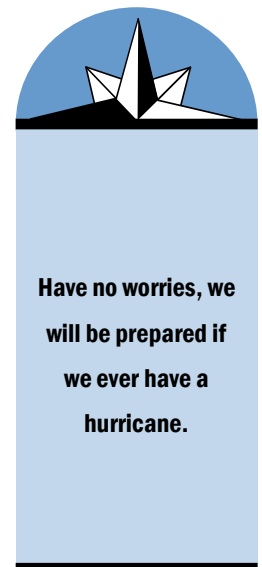
A leak 1/8" in diameter will waste 3600 gallons daily, 108,000 gallons monthly. This leak will cost \$364.38 in a month

A small faucet drip will run 30 gallons daily, 900 gallons monthly. This leak will cost you \$5.49 in a month.

A leak 1/16" as large as a regular knitting needle will waste 970 gallons daily, 29,100 gallons monthly. This would cost you \$107.95 in a month.

The above figures are in addition to minimum water bill of \$16.30, plus a 4% State Tax.

A leak the size of a pin. 1/32"



### WHERE DOES YOUR WATER GO??

On average, each American uses 60 gallons of water every day. You can reduce your water use by as much as 30% if you are efficient!

**Conserve water.**

Filling the tub uses about 50 gallons of water. Try bathing in just 10 gallons. Plug the tub when you shower; how

**full does the tub get?**

**Don't waste clean water. Plug the bathtub and start the hot water; wait to add cold water until the water in the tub has reached the right temperature. When you've finished bathing, use the bath water to clean the tub.**

**Don't pour water down the drain.**

**A household faucet runs at 3 to 5 gallons a minute. Avoid waste, turn faucets off firmly!!**

**Check appliances' connecting hoses and faucets for leaks. Even a pinhole leak wastes up to 170 gallons a day!!!**

Perdido Bay Water

28171 Freshwater Ln  
Elberta, AL 36530

Phone: 334-987-5816  
Fax: 334-987-5836  
Email: [www.perdidobaywater.com](http://www.perdidobaywater.com)



**Perdido Bay Water, Sewer  
& Fire Protection District**

QUALITY ON TAP  
OUR COMMITMENT  
OUR PROFESSION

**We're on the web!**  
**[www.perdidobaywater.com](http://www.perdidobaywater.com)**

## ? Question of the Month

The water meter is often referred to as the cash register of the water system. A meter is installed at the customer's home to accurately measure the water being consumed at the home. The American Water Works Association sets limits on the accuracy of the water meters and the manufacturer guarantees the meters when it is purchased by the water system.

We have received numerous calls and questions concerning whether or not a meter is accurate. This usually occurs when a customer receives a higher than normal water bill. The customer

usually wants to know if their meter is running fast or over-registering. The answer to this question is NO; a household type water meter cannot over-register. A water meter is so designed that as it ages and wears it will become worn out and slow down and at times completely stop registering.

As you can see old meters means less revenues for the system. Not only does the system lose revenues but it also affects the pumping reports that have to be reported to the state. The water system is required to

report all un-accounted for water to the state. Un-accounted for water is the water that is pumped above the water that is sold and cannot be accounted for. Thanks to the cooperation of the fire departments (Lillian VFD, Perdido Beach VFD, Josephine VFD and Elberta VFD) throughout the system we can account for the water that is used in fighting fires and training.

Taking the above facts into consideration the Perdido Bay Water, Sewer and Fire Protection District has a meter change out program in place and working on replacing all

water meters throughout the system. The system is installing a touchread meter that can be scanned with an electronic device thus eliminating the possibility of any human error that may occur when reading the meters or entering the data into the computers.

In the event that you feel that you have been billed in error or feel that there is a mistake in your bill we would like to encourage you to please call our billing office and we will be glad to reread your meter or check to see if you have a leak. As you are aware we are human and do make mis-