

MUD 18 Newsletter
June 2015
www.mcmud18.com

Hurricane Season - Be Prepared: Hurricane season began June 1 and ends Nov. 30. It is anyone's guess whether we will have a busy hurricane season in the Gulf or not. It only takes one direct hit from one storm to have big impact. The National Hurricane Center, area news media and civil defense agencies will provide information and advice for residents in the upper Texas coast region. Issues within Bentwater will be addressed by the POA and MUD 18. MUD 18 will focus on potential problems related to water supply, sewage treatment, garbage pickup and storm water drainage. The POA will serve as the Command Center and can mobilize a trained Community Emergency Response Team.



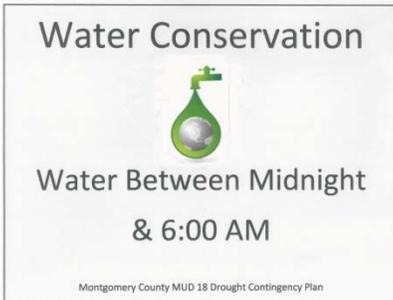
Prior to the start of the hurricane season, MUD 18 conducted inspections of all major storm drainage areas to ensure they are clear of any blocking debris. Neither residents nor their yard crews should ever dispose of yard debris in any of the natural drainage areas or in the storm drains as this can create serious issues in storm water drainage.

In recent years, MUD 18 has installed natural gas generators on our lift stations to provide sewer service during an extended power outage. In May, preventive maintenance with extended test run times was performed on all generators to ensure readiness to provide back-up power. Residents should understand the importance of minimizing use of water, minimizing the production of waste water and other helpful actions during a large storm event with an extended electrical power outage.

MUD 18's *Homeowner Hurricane Information* is being included with your June billing. This information includes guidelines for advance preparation and important advice for dealing with the aftermath of a storm, including communication procedures to provide access to the most reliable information on conditions within Bentwater. These guidelines are always available on our website at www.mcmud18.com.

Take Action Early. Be considerate of neighbors. Stay informed. Be Safe.

Summer Water Conservation Awareness Begins June 1: We have once again posted signs at major intersections reminding homeowners to voluntarily conserve water. Some may wonder why we are still encouraging water conservation now that, not only are we clearly not experiencing a drought, but also we are producing water from the Catahoula, which is believed to be in less danger of over production than the Jasper aquifer. We strongly believe that we all have a responsibility to protect the water supply in this area for future generations. We must use water responsibly. It is the right thing to do. And it requires a change in our mindset and a conscious change in our daily use of water. As a community we must continue to work hard to change old habits which lead to overwatering.



So even under this season's conditions, the Board will continue to adhere to the Drought Contingency Plan we developed several years ago. Accordingly, the Board has declared a water conservation condition to be in effect as of June 1 and to stay in effect until Sept 30. The objectives of this stage of our plan are to:

1. Encourage responsible water conservation while encouraging healthier lawns and landscapes. Please continue to actively manage your landscape irrigation system. *Watering between midnight and 6AM is healthier for your lawn and helps us maintain steady water pressure.* Water only as needed to encourage healthier root systems that can better tolerate both drought and freezing conditions. Overwatering undermines a healthy lawn. Lawn and landscape experts advise that with our current rainfall, irrigation systems should be turned off.
2. Avoid exceeding the "safe operating conditions" of our wells. If current rainfall conditions change significantly during the summer months, such that our water supply facilities reach or exceed these conditions, mandatory water usage restrictions will be necessary. With the Catahoula well, our expanded storage capacity and everyone's attention to conservation, we can avoid mandatory restrictions.

Water conservation saves you money and protects our precious water resource.

2014 Drinking Water Quality Report Each year Hays Utility North prepares a Drinking Water Quality Report. The quality analysis is made using prior year's data from tests required by the EPA. It is a summary of the quality of the water we provide to our customers. A copy of this report will be included with your June billing. The report is also available on our website. We hope this information helps you be knowledgeable about what's in your drinking water.



Waste Management Pickup Service Is Not Impacted By Summer Holidays. This is a reminder that the only holidays on which Waste Management will not provide pick-up service are New Years Day and Christmas Day. Trash and recycling services will be provided on all other holidays that fall on our regular pick-up schedule. Service will be provided as scheduled around the July 4 and Labor Day holidays.



Need a Recycle Bin? If you do not have a recycle bin and want to have one, call MUD Board member Rex Cambern at 936-449-5761 and he will be happy to arrange delivery.



As you dispose of the following recyclable items, **think green** and place the items in your recycle container, not your regular trash container:

Glass bottles and jars, tin/steel cans (including large coffee cans), juice boxes, metal 2 ft or less in length, paper board, magazines, aluminum cans, 12" x 12" card board, newspaper, junk mail and plastic with codes 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7. The top of the yellow lid has a table of acceptable items to serve as a handy quick reference guide.

Sign-up for E-Blasts: If you are not receiving our E-Blasts, you are missing out on timely information. Go to our website at www.mcmud18.com and give us your email address. Your address will not be shared with anyone. You can unsubscribe at any time.

Need to Report a Problem? Don't assume the problem has already been identified or reported. If you observe a water leak, sewer odor, discolored water, open manholes, alarms are sounding, or other problems, please help us by calling:

Hays Utility Service @ 936-588-1166.

Hays has someone in Bentwater every day, seven days a week. They can and will respond 24 hours a day. Their general office hours are from 8:00AM to 4:30PM Monday through Friday.

Meetings Open to the Public:

Our regularly scheduled monthly meetings are the **2nd Tuesdays at 2:30PM** in the Country Club Board Room. Meetings are open to the public. The agenda is posted on our web site and the message board in the breezeway entrance to the Country Club Grill near the Golf Pro-shop.

Sincerely,

Your MUD Board:

Lou Tichacek	President	597-7010
Linda Pierce	Vice President	597-5463
Susan McFarland	Treasurer	597-7503
Rex Cambern	Secretary	449-5761
Gary Montgomery	Assistant Secretary	597-9256