



SUMMER NEWSLETTER 2021



Backflow Prevention Device Testing

The Olympic Valley Public Service District is committed to delivering safe, high quality water to our customers. Our extensive water quality program operates 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, to ensure that the water delivered to our customers is kept free from harmful contaminants. An important part of our water quality program is the Backflow Prevention Program. When a water line is connected to equipment containing a non-potable substance, this is known as a cross-connection. Contamination may occur when water flows through a cross-connection from a non-potable source. Example are fire sprinkler systems, irrigation or heating and cooling systems. This can happen through a process known as backflow.

What is backflow?

Backflow is water flowing in the opposite direction from its normal flow. The District's potable water system is designed to keep the water flowing to you. When hydraulic conditions within any water system deviate from "normal," the direction of water flow can be reversed. This creates a backflow condition and the potential for contaminated water entering the potable water distribution system.

There are more than 500 backflow prevention assemblies on water services in our service area. The California Division of Drinking Water requires each of these assemblies to be tested annually. This testing is done by backflow assembly testers approved by the District. The District sends out reminders each year around June 1st to the owners of these devices. This notification also includes a list of approved testers. To learn more, please visit <https://www.ovpsd.org/water>, or to speak with a District cross-connection and backflow prevention expert, please call 530-583-4692 x108.



Defensible Space – Do your part!

- **Do it right the first time!** Fire Department personnel are in the business of helping people. While enforcing defensible space is a public service, our staff do not enjoy playing "bad-cop" and do not want to have to forward non-compliant homeowners to the County for enforcement. Every year the Department conducts almost 1,000 inspections and annually about 75% of homes fail the initial inspection in June. About 50% fail the re-inspection 30 days later. The need to re-inspect properties and follow up on enforcement requires time and resources that the Department often does not have. While the District strives to inspect 100% of properties each year, and re-inspect all failures, last year devastating fires took resources away from the Valley and the Department was unable to complete re-inspections.
- **Maintain your defensible space.** Through-out the summer please continue to cut your grasses (4 inches or less), clean your pine needles, thin brush and limbs. The height of fire season in the Valley is August – October.
- **Harden your home.** The OVFD cannot require home hardening but converting wood and shingle roofs to metal roofs, installing fire sprinklers, covering vent openings with metal mesh, and constructing decks and walls with non-combustible materials are a few ways to protect your investment.

Garbage Collection Update

As of July 1, 2021, Tahoe Truckee Sierra Disposal (TTSD) will no longer be picking up green waste from your homes.

This comes as TTSD is facing increased disposal costs for green waste from Placer County. This year, processing green waste has increased by 44%.

Creating a defensible space around your home is obviously important, so how do you get rid of your green waste?

- Every residence in Olympic Valley is entitled to drop off 6-yards of green waste each year for free at the Eastern Regional Landfill located at 900 Cabin Creek Road in Truckee.
- TTSD will deliver a 6-yard dumpster to your house. You get the dumpster for one week for \$128.93. The District is working on a rebate program to reduce that cost, we will notify customers via our e-newsletter. Sign-up here: <https://www.ovpsd.org/email-signup>
- Each June the District hosts a green waste drop-off day for all residents of the Valley. The date is announced through our e-newsletter as well as the Defensible Space Inspection notification letters.

OLYMPIC VALLEY FIRE DEPARTMENT

Fire and Safety Notes

Protection from Catastrophic Wildfire

The Olympic Valley Fire Department (OVFD) has managed a Defensible Space Program for over two decades. This program has been extremely successful in managing forest fuels such as dead trees and branches, brush, grasses, and pine needles that contribute to the risks associated with catastrophic wildfire. The District is extremely proud to deliver this robust level of service despite its lean budget and staffing levels. However, there is more work to be done to improve resiliency both in our residential areas as well as the wildlands surrounding the Valley.

As part of our Defensible Space Program, the OVFD inspects 100% of the residential and commercial properties in our service area annually for compliance with the State and County's defensible space requirements. For larger properties, our staff coordinates with owners and property managers such as Alterra Mountain Company, the Resort at Squaw Creek, Granite Peak Management, and various Homeowners Associations to develop three-to-five-year Work Plans for mitigating forest fuels on their private property. This includes walking the properties and prioritizing fuel reduction projects within each landowners' resources. Current regulations generally mitigate vegetation within 100 feet of structures but most of these landowners have gone above and beyond what the District enforces to mitigate risks on their property.

Unfortunately, we have never achieved 100% compliance and we need your help – only about 25% of all properties pass on their first inspection, requiring additional re-inspections. This is exacerbated by a short dry season to perform the work, a limited department budget to perform inspections, contractor and labor shortages spurred by a lack of local affordable housing, and extra time spent re-inspecting properties due to non-compliance. The Fire Department does not have dedicated funding for fire prevention and does not have dedicated staff to perform this critical work. The District spent \$146,000 last year on its Defensible Space Program. This service is provided directly from our emergency responders whose time is stretched thin from responding to 911 calls, required trainings, residential and commercial building inspections, and firefighting in other communities in the State under mutual aid agreements.

Placer County has recognized the challenges faced by local fire departments enforcing defensible space requirements and are now providing enforcement services for non-compliant properties. So, if a property fails its second inspection around mid-July, the County's Enforcement Official is notified to gain compliance or to abate the risk created by the property's hazardous vegetation, and then pursue cost recovery.

The Fire Department applauds the work performed by the Olympic Valley Firewise Community who has developed a process by which property owners large and small can report the time and money

spent creating and maintaining defensible space. In its first year, over 140 residents recorded more than 1,300 hours of mitigation work, investing over \$450,000 in fire prevention. Your Firewise Community was created to raise awareness about how to minimize wildfire spread, apply for large grants for forest fuels reduction, fund chipping programs, and support green waste days.

While the District's Defensible Space Program has been successful, the severity of wildfires in the West in recent years indicates that throughout the State, more needs to be done. As such, the District is proactively expanding its role to address wildfire risks by expanding its current efforts and creating a new Fuels Management Program. This program will distinguish itself by contracting for forest fuels reduction work on large acreage properties, both public and private.

Our first step is preparing a Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) with help from the OV Firewise Community, Friends of Squaw Valley, Alterra Mountain Company, and the Resort at Squaw Creek. The final CWPP will identify and prioritize the fuels reduction and wildfire prevention strategy for the Valley, a portion of the Truckee River corridor, as well as surrounding wildlands. The CWPP will address issues such as wildfire response, hazard mitigation, community preparedness, home hardening, and/or structure protection and will allow our community to take advantage of potential grant funding for forest management activities. The plan will include all interest groups and stakeholders within the Valley. The first community meeting about this effort will likely occur late this fall, and the public is always welcome to attend the District's Board meetings (the last Tuesday of the month) for more information.

District staff is currently conducting its due diligence in creating a new Fuels Management Program by talking to partners at the federal, state, county, and local levels to learn more about how grants are awarded and administered to scale its efforts and budget accordingly. Concurrent with the preparation of the CWPP, staff is determining the appropriate scope of services to be provided under the new program and working to identify and secure reliable sources of funding for the Program so it is sustainable over the long-term as forest thinning projects evolve into maintenance activities. Hiring additional support from a consultant(s), part-time staff, and / or full-time staff are also being considered. Additionally, the Fire Department included \$10,000 in its current budget to hire a grant writer to leverage the CWPP when finalized in April 2022 to apply for state grants in April and May of the same year.

While there will likely, always, be more to do to increase the Valley's resiliency to catastrophic wildfire, the District is proud of the Fire Department's effort historically and the community's interest as exhibited by the work for the Firewise community.

2021 Construction Season Update

The Engineering and Operations Departments are busy with summer construction projects! Staff is busy with permit reviews, inspections, and sewer lateral pressure testing for residential remodel and new construction projects. Below is a summary of a few of the large projects that you will likely see underway this summer, please reach out to the Engineering Department, or attend the District's Board meetings if you are curious to learn more!

Painted Rock Waterline Extension

The privately funded installation of a water line under SR-89 toward Bridge 3 to provide water service to single family residences located across Bridge 3. The water line will be dedicated to the District upon completion of the project. Traffic will likely be reduced to a single lane during construction.

Washoe Drive Extension Project

The privately funded development of three single family homes will require the extension of Washoe Drive towards the West Water Tank. Water and sewer service improvements will be extended from the end of Washoe Drive and dedicated to the District upon completion of the project. Traffic impacts should be minimal and focused within the existing cul-de-sac of Washoe Drive.

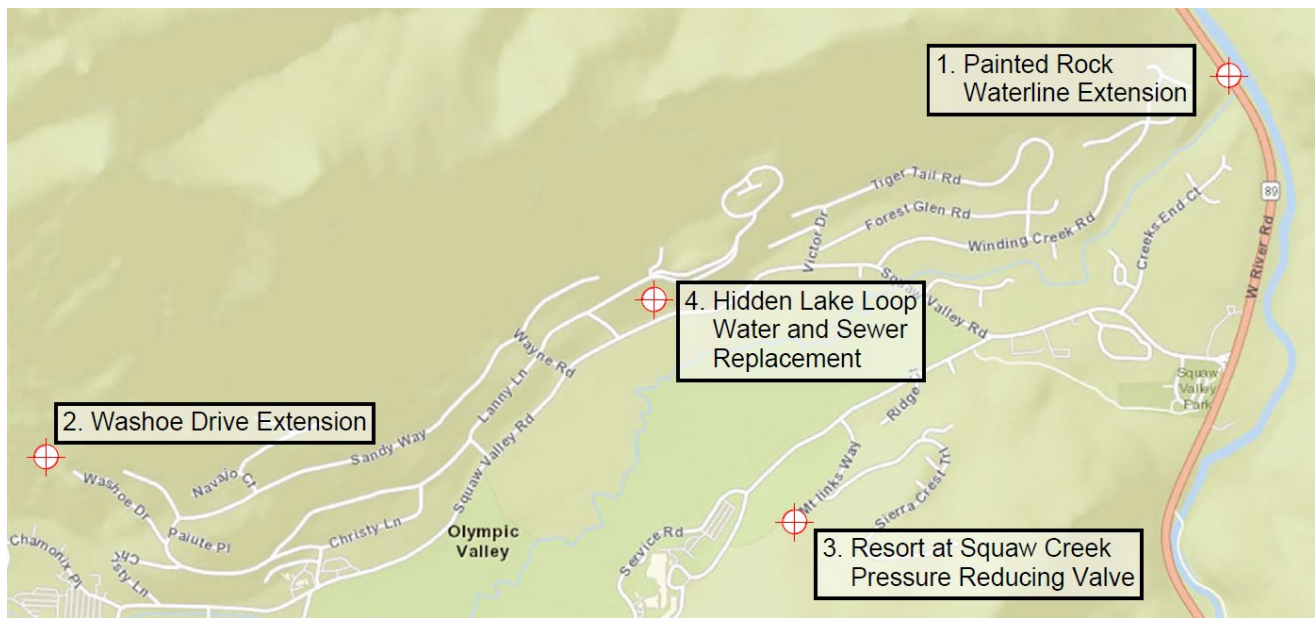
Resort at Squaw Creek Phase IIA Improvements – Pressure

Reducing Valve Project

The privately funded installation of a pressure reducing valve (PRV) located in the cul-de-sac of Mountain Links Way and the installation of a fire hydrant located on Squaw Creek Road will provide operational flexibility and enhanced fire protection within the District's water system. The PRV and fire hydrant will be dedicated to the District upon completion of the project. Traffic impacts should be minimal and focused within the cul-de-sac of Mountain Links Way and a small portion of Squaw Creek Road.

Hidden Lake Loop Water and Sewer Replacement

This Project includes replacement of aged and undersized water and sewer lines serving the Forest Glen and Hidden Lake Subdivisions. The project is in the Hidden Lake area and work will cross Squaw Valley Road to connect to the water main located near the bike path. This project is necessitated by a soon to be developed vacant lot on Squaw Valley Road. Traffic will likely be impacted by single lane closures on a portion of Squaw Valley Road between Russell Road and Victor Drive that will last about a week.



FIRE DEPARTMENT STAFF NEWS

OVFD has three seasonal firefighters on staff for the busy summer months—one returning seasonal Firefighter, **Jarred Minnor**, one part time firefighter coming on as a seasonal, **Nick Cherne**, and one new seasonal firefighter, congratulations **Scott Carlson**!

Fire Prevention News Ordinances

A reminder that the latest Fire Code restricts the use of solid fuel (charcoal included) during High Fire Danger. Defensible space inspections have begun. All property owners are required to maintain their defensible space through the summer and into the fall. Visit ovpsd.org/ovfd/defensible-space for more information

STR Inspections

Placer County has enacted new regulation on Short Term Rentals (STRs) and Olympic Valley Fire Department will be conducting **Fire and Life Safety Inspections** for the STRs in our District. Placer County's Short-Term Rental Program establishes rules for vacation rentals in unincorporated areas of eastern Placer County. Short-term rentals are residential units rented for 30 days or less, typically advertised as vacation rentals. Placer's Short-Term Rental Ordinance is intended to strike a balance of reducing neighborhood nuisances like noise and parking issues related to vacation rentals without undermining the market for this important guest accommodation. If you are registering your property for a Placer County TOT Certificate for a STR, you can contact OVFD to schedule your inspection at prevention@olympicvalleyfire.org.

IS YOUR CONTACT INFORMATION CURRENT?

It is very important for the District to have your current mailing address, phone number and email address on file in order for us to contact you if we become aware of an emergency at your residence. This information is confidential and will not leave our office.

If you would like to provide us with your updated information, please visit our website at www.ovpsd.org and select the "CONTACT US" tab at the top of the homepage!



Board of Directors Meetings

Regularly scheduled meetings are held the last Tuesday of each month at 8:30 a.m. at 305 Squaw Valley Road, Olympic Valley, California, or via GoToMeeting. Please check our website at ovpsd.org for up to date information.



Did you know we also send out quarterly e-newsletters? To sign up, visit <https://www.ovpsd.org/email-signup>. To be included on our District Distribution list and receive monthly emails related to board meetings, please email info@ovpsd.org, and we will add you to that list!

CONSUMER CONFIDENCE REPORT NOW AVAILABLE ONLINE

The Olympic Valley Public Service District is proud to supply safe, reliable and healthy water that meets or exceeds State and Federal public health standards for drinking water. Annually, the District publishes a water quality report titled "Consumer Confidence Report" (CCR) as required by the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA). The purpose of the CCR is to raise customers' awareness of the quality of their drinking water, where it comes from, what it takes to deliver water to their homes, and the importance of protecting drinking water sources.

In recent years the District has mailed its customers a printed copy of the CCR to comply with the SDWA. The California Department of Public Health has expanded its interpretation of the SDWA to allow for electronic delivery of the CCR. To view our 2020 Consumer Confidence Report and learn more about your drinking water, please visit the following URL: <https://www.ovpsd.org/consumer-confidence-report-2020>

If you would like a paper copy of the 2020 CCR mailed to your mailing address or would like to speak with someone about the report, please call (530) 583-4692 x207.

