



# WINTER NEWSLETTER 2022



## Fire Prevention in Olympic Valley

The Olympic Valley Fire Department (OVFD) has managed a Defensible Space Program for over two decades and has been working to expand the program to improve the Valley's resiliency to wildfire. An update on current work is typically provided at each Board meeting, the last Tuesday of the month. We encourage you to attend to learn more and participate in the conversation! Recent work includes:

### **Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) Development.**

The 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 District anticipates the final plan will be completed this Spring and will be hosting another community meeting in advance of finalizing the report. The plan will identify priority fuel removal projects including work on the north and south ridges of the Valley, in the Squaw Creek corridor, and around residential neighborhoods extending approximately 150' from structures. More information is available on the District's website at: <https://www.ovpsd.org/ovfd/olympic-valley-community-wildfire-protection-plan>

### **2022 Fuels Management Project Funding.**

The District has been working with Registered Professional Forester (RPF) Danielle Bradfield to pursue grants for fuels management work. The District is currently focused on the CALFIRE Fire Prevention grant, which awarded the District \$31,898 in 2021 for the preparation of the Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP). The District is also working on other funding and

project opportunities in conjunction with the Olympic Valley Firewise Community, Tahoe Truckee Community Foundation, and the U.S. Forest Service.

### **S Turns Tree Thinning.**

In collaboration with the Friends of Squaw Creek and Trout Unlimited, the District leveraged remaining grant funds in the amount of \$19,000 to thin trees on the S-Turns on the south side of Squaw Valley Road. The contractor performed three days of work and treated approximately one-third, or 0.7 acres, of the thickly forested area. The District will seek additional grant funds during the winter and spring to complete the work in 2022.

### **Five Creeks Project.**

The District submitted a letter of support to the United States Forest Service (USFS) Truckee Ranger District during the Public Scoping phase of the Five Creeks Project. The Project intends to balance the goals and objectives of forest fuels reduction to minimize or avoid the impacts of catastrophic wildfire with the protection of sensitive spotted owl and goshawk habitat, among other forest management priorities.

### **Tahoe Basin Biomass Working Group.**

The District is participating in the Working Group, which aims to identify solutions to dispose of the growing volume of green waste in the region. The desired outlets may use the forest fuels to generate either electrical power or thermal energy for heating applications.

## OVPSD Welcomes Two New Operator Trainees

### **Mauricio Perez**



Mauricio started working at the District in November 2021.

He is a true local and attended Truckee High, where he met his wife, Rebecca. After high school, he enlisted in the Navy. He was stationed in Washington and completed a tour aboard a submarine before returning to the mountains! He previously worked for Tahoe City PUD. Mauricio and his wife recently had their first child, a son

named JJ. In his free time, you can find Mauricio dirt-biking, fishing, shooting or anything else that lets him be outside!

### **John Tuscher**



John also started working at the District in November 2021.

John has lived in the Tahoe area since 2015, and recently moved to Reno with his wife, Melanie. John previously worked at Sugar Bowl Resort, where he managed the race department and directed on-hill skiing events. Last August, he and Melanie welcomed their first child, a son named Harrison. When John's

not working or hanging out with Harrison, he enjoys skiing, dirt-biking, hiking and camping.

## OLYMPIC VALLEY FIRE DEPARTMENT

# Fire and Safety Notes

Winter 2022

### FIRE DEPARTMENT STAFF NEWS

OVFD is doing our best dealing with Covid-19. The fire station is open to the public, with masks and social distancing as we mitigate the challenges with operations and respond to emergencies as close to normal as possible. OVFD hired a new seasonal firefighter for the Winter — **Congratulations and Welcome to Andrew Phillips!!!** OVFD will be recruiting seasonal firefighters this Spring for the 2022 summer season, If you know a good candidate, send them our way!

### FIRE DEPARTMENT REMINDERS

A reminder to all homeowners to keep your propane tanks and regulators, as well as heater vents clear of snow during the winter months. Also see the Adopt a Hydrant program to help keep our hydrants accessible to the OVFD during the winter.

### AVALANCHE SAFETY RESOURCES

Parts of our community are in Avalanche prone areas. You can keep yourselves informed through the Sierra Avalanche Center website:

[www.sierraavalanchecenter.org](http://www.sierraavalanchecenter.org)

This site is an excellent resource for avalanche information, including advisory by elevation, current avalanche problems, conditions, observations and weather. There is also a recorded avalanche advisory at 530-587-3558 x258.

We will continue to send updates through Nixle when concerns are high. If you have not yet subscribed, see info under 2021 Summer Wildland Fires.

Remember if skiing in the backcountry...ALWAYS ski with a (trained and equipped) buddy, carry a beacon, shovel, probe and let someone know where your going and when to expect you back.

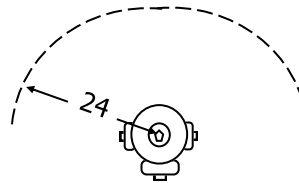
## Adopt a Hydrant

During winter months, maintaining access to fire hydrants is very important. It's also a real challenge. In Olympic Valley, access is generally maintained by the water purveyor, sometimes with assistance from the fire department. There are times, however, the job is practically overwhelming and requires the better part of a week before all of the hydrants have been shoveled out.

This is an area in which citizen involvement and assistance are most welcome. Do your firefighters and yourself a favor by adopting the hydrant closest to your home - make it **YOUR HYDRANT**.

The time that it takes to locate and dig out a hydrant seems like an eternity during a fire, but it won't take long to shovel out your hydrant before it is needed. No complicated paperwork is required and you can do your bit for neighborhood fire safety either under cover of darkness for anonymity or at high noon to earn the approval and gratitude of your neighbors.

Do your part for winter fire safety in Olympic Valley and **adopt a hydrant today!** Also, when digging out a hydrant, please keep in mind that we need at least **24" clearance** in all directions from the center of the hydrant. Please see the diagram below for an ideal job!



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STREET

## 2021 Summer Wildland Fires

OVFD had a busy wildland season, equipment and crews spent over 70 days outside of our local region. The Dixie Fire, Tamarack Fire and the Caldor Fire were all much closer than we would like. We hope not to have to get reciprocation on that level in our own District! Please get your defensible space work done early this spring and maintain it throughout the summer!

It is also important to keep informed of important information from local and State government agencies. We encourage all homeowners to sign up for **Nixle** (text 96146 to 888-777) and sign up for **Placer Alert System** through Placer County ([placer.ca.gov](http://placer.ca.gov)).

### *Knox Box* Program (that little lock box next to your front door)

This is a reminder for homeowners that may have changed their locks and all of the new homeowners to Olympic Valley. The Valley has had a lock box program since requiring sprinklers, for over 20 years, the lockbox that we require is from **Knox**, we (OVFD) are the only ones that have a key to these lock boxes. This allows the FD access to your residence in the event of a fire alarm (or other emergency) without having to break anything. If you have changed your locks, please coordinate with us to update the key in your **Knoxbox**. We can be reached at 530-583-6111, follow prompt to talk with the on duty crew. You can also send an email to: [prevention@olympicvalleyfire.org](mailto:prevention@olympicvalleyfire.org).

# Sewer Lateral Testing Requirements in Olympic Valley

## The Sewer System - A Shared Responsibility

It takes both homeowners and sewer agencies doing their part to keep the sewer system from overflowing into the environment. The drawing below provides an overview of the requirements and best practices of a sewer system.

## What Is a Sewer Lateral?

A sewer lateral is the pipe that conveys sewage from a building's plumbing to the District sewer system. The property owner is responsible for the upper sewer lateral only – the part on private property. The District maintains responsibility for the lower sewer lateral.

## Sewer Pressure Test

Sewer pressure tests are ultimately aimed at preventing sanitary sewer overflows (SSOs) and infiltration and inflow (I&I) caused by failed building laterals. Many older homes still rely on original

building laterals that have become cracked, disjointed, or damaged by earth settlement or blockages. Unmaintained building laterals that become blocked or failed can contribute to SSOs of the public sewer system or to sewage backups into the building served by the lateral.

## When does a sewer pressure test need to be performed?

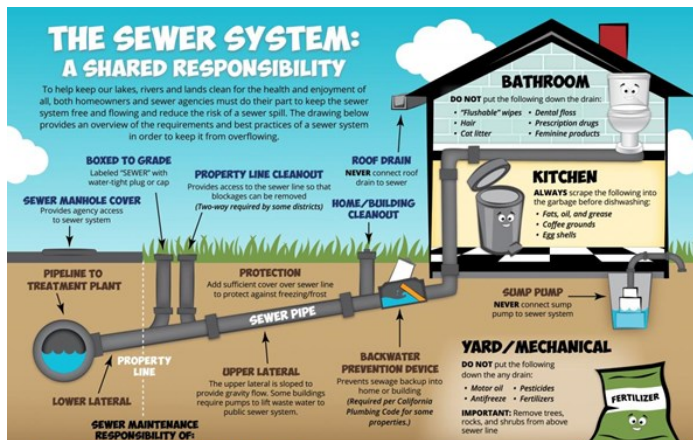
- New construction, remodels, or additions.
- Addition of living quarters, such as Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs).
- Addition of a toilet or other plumbing fixtures.
- Change of use (e.g. residential to business or vice versa).
- Repair/replacement of building sewer.
- Prior to close of escrow upon sale of a property.
- Upon determination of the General Manager to protect public health, safety, or welfare.

## How is a sewer pressure test typically performed?

- The test section is from the building cleanout to the property line cleanout.
- An air test is performed by plugging each end of the lateral and applying 4 psi to the section under test. The test fails if the loss exceeds 1/2 psi in 5 minutes.
- If the line fails, the owner is responsible for correcting the problem and scheduling a new test.
- Sewer pressure tests are performed during normal business hours. Please call the office at least 24 hours in advance and let them know you need to schedule a sewer pressure test.

The information above is a basic overview of the sewer pressure test. View the Sewer Code and Technical Specifications for more detailed information at

<https://www.ovpsd.org/sewer-lateral-pressure-testing>



## 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 and 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 to enter 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.



# We Want to Hear From You!

## Look out for the District's E-Newsletter

Would you like to receive periodic emails from the District with information similar to what is in this newsletter? Join our email list, we promise not to bombard your inbox!

Sign up at [ovpsd.org/email-signup](http://ovpsd.org/email-signup)

If you would like to update your contact information, or sign up to receive our monthly emails regarding board meetings, please email [info@ovpsd.org](mailto:info@ovpsd.org).

## Board of Directors Meeting

Regularly scheduled meetings are held the last Tuesday of each month at 8:30 a.m.

Members of the public are encouraged to attend! Board Meetings are held in the community room, located at 305 Squaw Valley Road, Olympic Valley.

Agendas with the link to the meeting can be found at [ovpsd.org](http://ovpsd.org).

**New Administration Office Hours—To better serve our customers, we're now open during lunch!  
Our new office hours are Monday – Friday, 8am-4pm.**

## 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 CCR 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 x109.