



FIRE AND WATER

2018



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A supplement to Gold Country Media in partnership
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The concentration of flammable material in the fuel break before it was cleared six years ago would burn too hot to go near and even if a firefighter could get near the blaze it wouldn't make a difference, Fire Chief Mark D'Ambrogi said.

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During the hot summer months, the water in canals may look inviting, but underneath the surface are powerful currents that can pull a person or animal under very quickly.

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- Never go swimming, tubing or rafting in canals.
- Obey all posted warning signs, barriers and fences.
- If you drop something in a canal by accident, leave it.
- If walking, jogging or biking along canals, keep a safe distance from the edges which can be slippery.
- Keep a close eye on children and pets around canals.



pge.com/safety

Overwatering?



Find tips on how much water
your yard really needs at
PCWA.net and
BeWaterSmart.info

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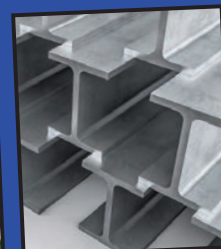
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FIRE AND WATER

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WATER: HYDROPOWER PROJECT

2018 Middle Fork Project hydropower generation in line with expectations

SUBMITTED BY PCWA

At the July 19 meeting of the Placer County Water Agency (PCWA) Board of Directors, the Board received a mid-year update on Middle Fork Project (MFP) hydropower generation in 2018. The forecast for year-end generation is just over 1 million megawatt hours (MWhrs), which is in line with projections from October 2017.

Revenue forecasts from hydropower generation are also in line with earlier projections, reflecting an average hydrologic year in 2018 and leveling prices in the energy market. Compared to 2017, which was not only the wettest year on record, but also experienced summer energy prices nearly double the average, energy prices for hydropower generation this summer have remained fairly uniform and just above average.

In related news, the PCWA Board received the Draft 2019 Power Division Budget, which totals \$37.5 million including \$25 million in operating expenses and \$12.5 million in capital projects. Within the appropriation for capital projects, the majority of the money will go toward reliability upgrades to MFP powerhouses. The Power Division Budget will be incorporated into the Middle Fork Project Finance Authority Budget later this year.

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In pursuit of the perfect amount of stress ...

Loomis winery takes advantage of PCWA's irrigation management system for watering balance

SUBMITTED BY PCWA

Ron and Vicky Morris of Secret Ravine Vineyard in Loomis took their passion for wine and turned it into second careers. They not only run their own vineyard, but also establish and operate five other vineyards owned by others which provide wine grapes for SRV wines.

PCWA supplies water to three of the vineyards they manage and Ron encouraged enrollment in PCWA's Growers Irrigation Management Systems (GIMS) program. It is one of the most effective ways to gauge soil moisture content in commercial growing operations, particularly for the soil depths for wine grape roots. Through the program, Ron receives weekly reports on the moisture levels in the vineyards and he uses the data to adjust the irrigation.

This is important because one of the keys to producing the quality grapes for wine is to provide just the right amount of water. If a vine gets too much water, it focuses more on growing and less on grapes, producing unripe grapes. If a vine gets too little water, it can enter hibernation



and be lost for the season. Just the right amount of water stress after the fruit sets causes the vine to focus more

on growing grapes and less on foliage. Each variety of grapes has different

water needs and Ron has been tracking the data and the plants' response over a number of years to find the optimal amount of water stress to produce the ideal crop.

"It's a matter of experimenting over time to get a sense of how the grapes are doing. And then making an adjustment the following year in the search for just the right levels. The GIMS program is an invaluable tool in this effort."



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local farmer spotlight



Gordon Poulson says he's always been passionate about farming. He's been in the business for 20 years while the Poulson Family has been farming since 1959.

Managing 16 acres of fruit trees, primarily citrus, Gordon participates in PCWA's Growers Irrigation Management System too and has since the start of the program 12 years ago.

PCWA: What type of crops or produce do you grow?

MR. POULSON: Mandarins, blood oranges, Valencia oranges, navel oranges, lemons, and summer vegetables.

PCWA: Satsuma seems to be a popular mandarin, do you grow those?

MR. POULSON: Yes, there are actually three types. We grow Okitsu, Owari and Dobashi beni Satsumas.

PCWA: Those are really fun to say. How have your irrigation practices changed as a result of participating in the program?

MR. POULSON: We switched from overhead irrigation to bubblers in the orchards which are more efficient. The bubblers get the water where the plants need it instead of overwatering, which reduces the need for mowing. An added bonus is we don't have as many weeds.

PCWA: What benefits have you experienced from being more water efficient?

MR. POULSON: Using less water on the trees allowed us to expand our agriculture. Because we have reduced our watering by switching to bubblers, we've been able to grow a summer

vegetable garden watered with drip tape and added more fruit trees.

PCWA: What are your thoughts on the GIMS program?

MR. POULSON: It's helping us manage our watering so we can plant more with less water; we're stretching our 1 inch of water across all 6 acres at my home ranch. The data helps identify what might be overwatered or under watered. We look at the reports then go look in the field to see if there might be a leak, a broken sprinkler or other problems. Also, since I help manage two other orchards, I can easily see how the crops are doing by reviewing the weekly reports which is an effective use of my time.

PCWA: Has there been a positive impact on your crops?

MR. POULSON: Yes, the fruit quality is far superior. In mandarins, the less water, the sweeter the mandarins, in my opinion. Snails too, we don't have as big of a problem with these guys anymore because they prefer more water.

PCWA: Do you have any words of advice for our other customers?

MR. POULSON: I highly recommend irrigating only for the plant's needs. Whenever you can improve efficiencies in this world, I think it's a task worth doing.

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State enacts new water conservation law



BY EINAR MAISCH
PCWA GENERAL MANAGER

The passage of new water conservation legislation in California has led to many questions about the impact on PCWA and future water use in the region.

There are no immediate impacts to customers from the new state law and many details for implementing the new water use requirements will be determined over the next several years. The three key elements most relevant to PCWA and its customers are a standard for indoor residential water use of 55 gallons per person per day and dropping to 50 gallons by 2030; a standard for outdoor residential water use and commercial, industrial, and institutional water use taking into account factors like the local precipitation and climate zone; and a standard for water loss due to leaks in the water system.

PCWA's water use target will be the sum of its indoor residential, outdoor residential, and commercial water uses, as well as water loss estimates. Once the target is calculated by the state, PCWA will implement strategies to meet the new targets in our service area. It is important to note that the new state law does not apply to individual residence or businesses, but rather to PCWA's entire customer base as a whole.

Unlike much of southern California, PCWA does not have a water supply problem. Our customers' investments in water supply infrastructure has provided us with a robust, reliable and sustainable water supply, with plenty of water in reserve for future development without adversely affecting existing customers. Nonetheless, with the enactment of the new law, the southern California model of conservation and expensive recycling is now the dominant model for the state.

But make no mistake, water is precious and should never be wasted. PCWA is committed to reducing water loss and improving our overall water use efficiency and helping our customers do the same. PCWA's Board of Directors and management recognize that water savings are best achieved through customer awareness and education, as opposed to misguided mandates that hinder the legitimate, efficient, and beneficial use of water. Our customers have consistently shown their willingness to do their part to use water efficiently during the last drought and beyond.

As regulations are developed over the coming years, PCWA will stay active in the legislative and regulatory process to defend your efficient use of water, the water rights we hold in trust for our customers, and the investments we have made to deliver a sustainable and reliable water supply.

faq: WATER LEGISLATION

On May 31, Gov. Jerry Brown enacted into law two new bills that require urban water providers throughout California to set new permanent water use targets for their service areas by 2022. Senate Bill 606 (Hertzberg) and Assembly Bill 1668 (Friedman) provide a framework for setting water use targets, as well as implementing and enforcing the new water use requirements.

Many of the specifics have yet to be developed, and will take years to implement. Below are some Frequently Asked Questions:

How does the new law impact customers?

There are no immediate impacts to customers. Over the next several years, specific water use targets will be established for each water provider's overall service area based upon the standards outlined in the law. The water use targets must be established by 2022 and implemented in 2023. PCWA will continue to work with individual households and businesses to increase their water efficiency through rebates and education, like our water-wise program.



I heard it is now illegal to take a shower and wash clothes on the same day, is this true?

No. There is nothing in the law that specifies when or how often a person may shower, do laundry, or use water for any other purpose. The law does set an indoor residential standard of 55 gallons per capita per day (GPCD) starting in 2023, dropping to 50 GPCD by 2030; however, this amount applies to the aggregate water use of PCWA's entire water system.

The amount of water that a clothes washer uses can vary widely, and if you own an old one your home could easily go well over the new state residential standard on laundry day. Older washers use 29 to 45 gallons per load; most high-efficiency washers use 15 to 30 gallons per load; and, the most efficient washers use less than 5 gallons per load. Encouraging customers to replace old machines as they wear out with high-efficiency models will be one of the best ways for PCWA to meet this new standard.

Will water providers be monitoring and evaluating individual water use as part of the new law?

There is no requirement in the new law that individual households must meet a specific target. The new law provides a framework for setting targets, but those will be applied on a system-wide basis. Each water purveyor will determine the best way to meet the target. PCWA encourages its customers to continue using water efficiently and understands that water savings are best achieved through customer education and awareness.

PCWA will remain engaged, in an attempt to protect the reasonable and efficient use of water by our customers, as the state develops regulations to implement the new law. The outcome of those negotiations will determine how aggressive PCWA must be with its highest water use customers in order to comply.

Will individual residents and businesses be fined for not meeting water use targets?

For several years, the law has allowed local water purveyors to fine individual customers up to \$500 per day for certain defined unreasonable water use practices. To date, PCWA has not fined any of its customers. When we find or get a report of wasteful water use we work with the customer to identify solutions to meet legitimate needs but avoid wasting water. We intend to continue this approach of cooperative education with our customers in order to reach compliance with these new state mandates.

Fines established by this new law apply solely to water purveyors (up to \$1,000 per day for failure to meet water use targets).

Why did PCWA oppose the legislation?

PCWA opposed to the legislation, on principle, because we do not have a water supply problem in our service area. However, because the majority of Californians live in the south part of the state, where limited water supplies have made aggressive conservation necessary for more than 20 years, the Governor and the Legislature made it the rule for everyone, regardless of local water supply conditions.

Also, it is worth noting that this measure does very little to solve any real problems. 50 percent of the developed surface water supply in California is already dedicated to the environment; 40 percent goes to agriculture; and, all urban demands combined use only 10 percent. More specifically, northern California urban demands use only 2-3 percent of the available surface water. This means conserving an extra 15 percent, throughout all of northern California's urban areas, yields a net increase of only about 0.5 percent in the overall statewide water supply. This law was more about the enforcement of correct thinking, rather than problem solving.

What's the Bottom Line?

Water is precious and should never be wasted. Our customers have made great strides to become more efficient with their water use over the past 10 years. We expect that reasonable people will win out in the final regulations and that PCWA's water system will be able to comply with the continued help and cooperation of our customers. PCWA will continue to defend our customer's right to all of the water they need, so long as the use is efficient and beneficial.

For any other questions, please contact PCWA Customer Services at 530-823-4850.

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How to ‘harden’ your home

COURTESY CALFIRE

Flying embers can destroy homes up to a mile from a wildfire. “Harden” your home now before a fire starts by using ember-resistant building materials.

Here are some things you can do to harden your home and make it more fire resistant.

Roof

The roof is the most vulnerable part of your home. Homes with wood or shingle roofs are at high risk of being destroyed during a wildfire. Build your roof or re-roof with materials such as composition, metal or tile. Block any spaces between roof decking and covering to prevent embers from catching.

Vents

Vents on homes create openings for flying embers. Cover all vent openings with 1/8-inch to 1/4-inch metal mesh. Do not use fiberglass or plastic mesh because they can melt and burn. Protect vents in eaves or cornices with baffles to block embers (mesh is not enough).

Eaves and soffits

Eaves and soffits should be protected with ignition-resistant* or non-combustible materials.

Windows

Heat from a wildfire can cause windows to break even before the home ignites. This allows burning embers to enter and start fires inside. Single-paned and large windows are particularly vulnerable. Install dual-paned windows with one pane of tempered glass to reduce the chance of breakage in a fire. Consider limiting the size and number of windows that face large areas of vegetation.

Walls

Wood products, such as boards, panels or shingles, are common siding materials. However, they are combustible and not good choices for fire-prone areas. Build or remodel your walls with ignition resistant* building materials, such as stucco, fiber cement, wall siding, fire retardant, treated wood, or other approved materials. Be sure to extend materials from the foundation to the roof.

Decks

Surfaces within 10 feet of the building should be built with ignition-resistant*, non-combustible, or other approved materials. Ensure that all combustible items are removed from underneath your deck.

Rain gutters

Screen or enclose rain gutters to prevent accumulation of plant debris.

Patio cover

Use the same ignition-resistant* materials for patio coverings as a roof.

Chimney

Cover your chimney and stovepipe outlets with a non-combustible screen. Use metal screen material with openings no smaller than 3/8-inch and no larger than 1/2-inch to prevent embers from escaping and igniting a fire.

Garage

Have a fire extinguisher and tools such as a shovel, rake, bucket, and hoe available for fire emergencies. Install weather stripping around and under the garage door to prevent embers from blowing in. Store all combustible and flammable liquids away from ignition sources.

Address

Make sure your address is clearly visible from the road.

*Ignition-resistant building materials are those that resist ignition or sustained burning when exposed to embers and small flames from wildfires. Examples of ignition-resistant materials include “non-combustible materials” that don’t burn, exterior grade fire-retardant-treated wood lumber, fire-retardant-treated wood shakes and shingles listed by the State Fire Marshal (SFM) and any material that has been tested in accordance with SFM Standard 12-7A-5.

Is your property a fire danger?

BY SCOTT SERENBETZ, BUSHWACKERS, INC.

You may think the worst thing about your overgrown property is that it's simply an ugly mess. But did you know that the same conditions that make it unattractive also make it a fire hazard? All it takes is one spark to ignite a patch of brush or pile of dried leaves and the resulting damage to your land — or worse, to your home — can be devastating.

Take a look at the following list to identify if there are hazardous conditions on your property.

- **Lack of “defensible space,”** which is simply the area around your house where the plant material has been modified to reduce wildfire intensity. Contact your local fire safe council or CalFire for defensible space requirements.

- **Dead plant material** on the property including dead trees and shrubs, dead branches lying on the ground or still attached to plants, yellowed and dried grasses, leaves and brown needles.

- **Height of grasses,** shrubs and flowers exceeding 18 inches.

- **Masses of plants or brush,** referred to as a “horizontal layer” of vegetation.

- **Too many flammable shrubs,** including manzanita, bear clover/mountain misery, buck brush, Scotch/Spanish broom, juniper, blackberry and incense cedar.

- **Trees and plants at varying heights** located next to each other, referred to



as “ladder fuel.” Flames will “climb” up the ladder created by the varying heights.

- **Sloped areas** on your property can have an influence on fire behavior. The steeper the slope, the faster the fire will spread. South- and southwest-facing slopes tend to have drier material. Once you've set out to tackle hazardous vegetation, carefully evaluate the risk of doing the work yourself before you assume it's a good idea.

Do you have access to the appropriate equipment and safety gear? Will steep or rocky terrain, equipment operation or exposure to poison oak and rattlesnakes compromise your safety? Many people try to perform the work themselves to save money. In the interest of getting the job done correctly, safely and in a timely manner, don't skimp on your budget, even if it means that spend-

ing a little more to get help from a professional service company.

Finally, implement an annual maintenance routine to keep your property safe. Every year, revisit the things that make your property a fire hazard and address those that need attention. Remember, there's a bonus in making your property fire safe — it's bound to look better and be more usable, too.

For more information, contact Scott Serenbetz, president of Bushwackers, Inc.

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The Water-Wise Home

Each drop of water drawn from our local lakes, rivers and streams is precious. Here are some ways to both upgrade your lifestyle with high-efficiency products and fixtures while making water efficiency a way of life.

TIPS!

1 Check and fix leaky toilets

Add food coloring to the tank. If the color seeps into the bowl within 15 minutes, your toilet is leaking. Flush quickly to avoid staining
Saves 30 to 50 gallons per day per toilet

2 Take five-minute showers

Saves 3.5 gallons

3 Turn off the faucet when brushing teeth or shaving

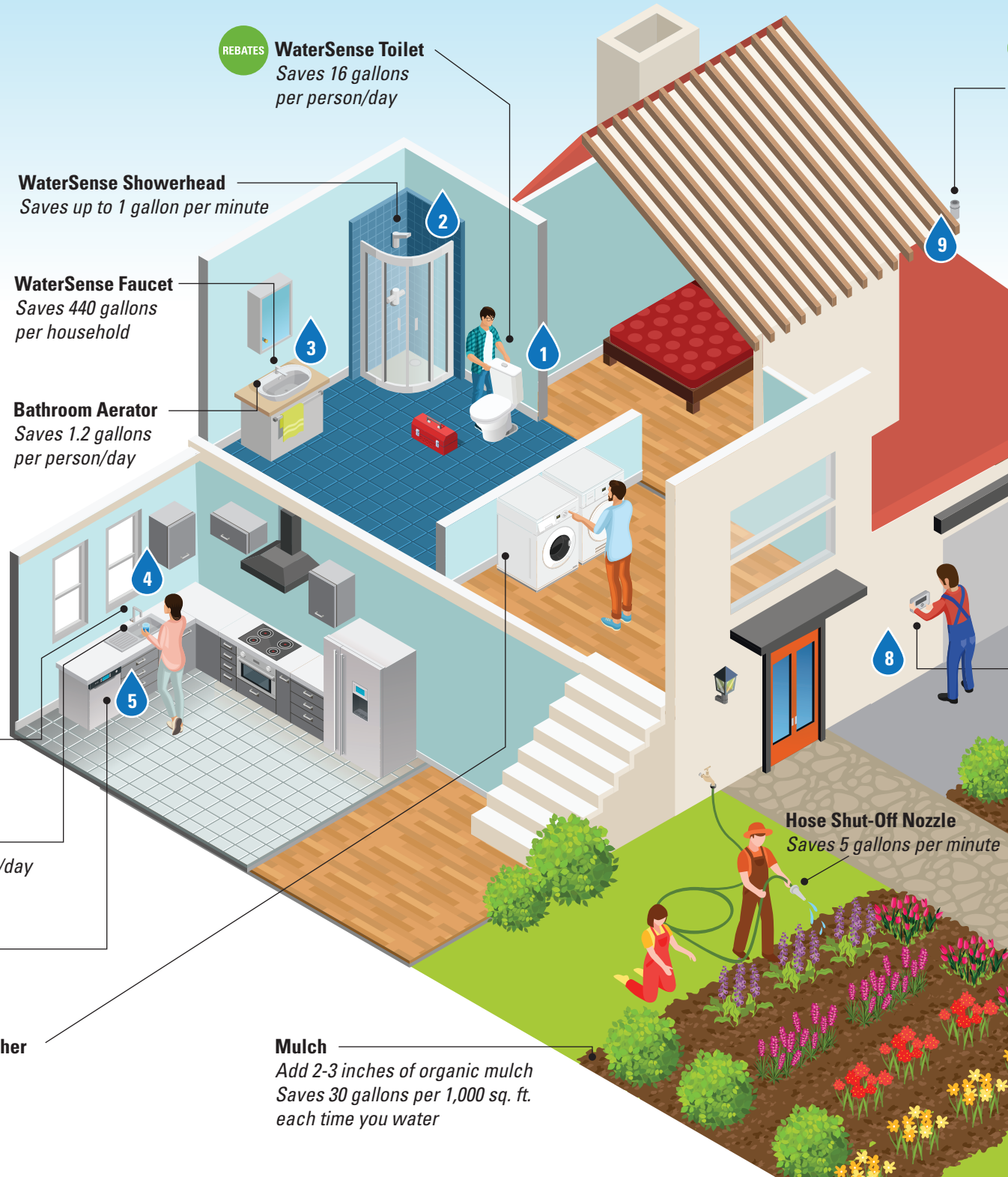
Saves 5 gallons per day

4 Fix leaky faucets

Saves 10 to 15 gallons per day per leak

5 Run the clothes washer and dishwasher only when full

Saves 2 to 4.5 gallons per load of dishes
Saves 15 to 30 gallons per load of laundry



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TIPS!

6 Look for and quickly repair leaks in your irrigation system

A leak about as small as the tip of a ballpoint pen can waste about 6,300 gallons of water per month

7 Set mower blade to 3 inches

Longer grass reduces evaporation
Saves 16 to 50 gallons per day

8 Water in the morning

To beat evaporation from sun and wind
Saves 50 gallons each time you water

9 Check out the Smart Sprinkler Scheduler at BeWaterSmart.info

To create a custom watering schedule based upon the weather

10 Stop runoff

Water in several shorter segments, allowing water to soak in, rather than one long one
Saves 10 to 40 gallons each time you water

Did you know...

Most household water use occurs outdoors? There are lots of ways to save, but using water efficiently in the landscape can make the biggest difference of all.

Make a plan with household for when a fire occurs

COURTESY CALFIRE

Your Wildfire Action Plan must be prepared, and familiar to all members of your household well in advance of a wildfire. Use the checklist below to help create your plan. Each family's plan will be different, depending on a variety of issues, needs, and situations.

Your wildfire action plan checklist

- Create an evacuation plan that includes:
 - A designated emergency meeting location outside the fire or hazard area. This is critical to determine who has safely evacuated from the affected area.
 - Several different escape routes from your home and community. Practice these often so everyone in your



family is familiar in case of emergency.

- Have an evacuation plan for pets and large animals such as horses and other livestock.

■ A Family Communication Plan that designates an out-of-area friend or relative as a point of contact to act as a single source of communication among family members in case of separation. (It is easier to call or message one person and let them contact others than to try and call everyone when phone, cell, and internet systems can be overloaded or limited during a disaster.)

Be Prepared:

- Have fire extinguishers on hand and train your family how to use them (check expiration dates regularly).
- Ensure that your family knows where your gas, electric, and water main shut-off controls are located and

how to safely shut them down in an emergency.

- Assemble an Emergency Supply Kit for each person, as recommended by the American Red Cross.
- Maintain a list of emergency contact numbers posted near your phone and in your emergency supply kit.
- Keep an extra Emergency Supply Kit in your car in case you cannot get to your home because of fire or other emergency.
- Have a portable radio or scanner so you can stay updated on the fire.
- Tell your neighbors about your Wildfire Action Plan.

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Assemble an emergency supply kit

COURTESY CALFIRE

Put together your emergency supply kit long before a wildfire or other disaster occurs and keep it easily accessible so you can take it with you when you have to evacuate. Plan to be away from your home for an extended period of time. Each person should have a readily accessible emergency supply kit. Backpacks work great for storing these items (except food and water) and are quick to grab. Storing food and water in a tub or chest on wheels will make it easier to transport. Keep it light enough to be able to lift it into your car.

Emergency supply kit checklist

- Three-day supply of non-perishable food and three gallons of water per person.
- Map marked with at least two evacuation routes
- Prescriptions or special medications
- Change of clothing
- Extra eyeglasses or contact lenses
- An extra set of car keys, credit cards, cash or traveler's checks
- First aid kit

- Flashlight
- Battery-powered radio and extra batteries
- Sanitation supplies
- Copies of important documents (birth certificates, passports, etc.)
- Don't forget pet food and water

Items to take if time allows:

- Easily carried valuables
- Family photos and other irreplaceable items
- Personal computer information on hard drives and disks
- Chargers for cell phones, laptops, etc.

Always keep a sturdy pair of shoes and a flashlight near your bed and handy in case of a sudden evacuation at night.

For more information on emergency supplies, visit ready.gov



Nevada Irrigation District
customers have reduced their water consumption by an average of 20% since the beginning of the 2013-2016 drought.

**KEEP SAVING WATER!
EVERY DROP COUNTS!**

Visit www.nid.water.com for conservation tips
Nevada Irrigation District, 1036 West Main Street
Grass Valley CA 95945
(530) 273-6185

TO DO List:
✓ Turn off sprinklers
✓ Mulch around trees
Fix leaky toilet

Steps to stay safe around water

COURTESY AMERICAN RED CROSS

Swimming is the most popular summer activity. One of the best things you can do to help your family stay safe is to enroll in age-appropriate swim lessons. Designed for those ages 6 months to adult, Red Cross swim lessons help set the stage for a lifetime of water safety by equipping you with the knowledge and skills needed to help you and your loved ones swim safely and with confidence. Contact the Training Support Center at 1-800-RED-CROSS or support@redcrosstraining.org.

Follow these safety actions whenever you are in, on or around water.



Make Water Safety Your Priority

- Swim in designated areas supervised by lifeguards.
- Always swim with a buddy; do not allow anyone to swim alone. Even at a public pool or a lifeguarded beach, use the buddy system!
- Ensure that everyone in the family learns to swim well. Enroll in age-appropriate Red Cross water orientation and Learn-to-Swim courses.
- Never leave a young child unattended near water and do not trust a child's life to another child; teach children to always ask permission to go near water.
- Have young children or inexperienced swimmers wear U.S. Coast Guard-approved life jackets around water, but do not rely on life jackets alone.
- Establish rules for your family and enforce them without fail. For example, set limits based on each person's ability, do not let anyone play around drains and suction fittings, and do not allow swimmers to hyperventilate before swimming under water or have breath-holding contests.
- Even if you do not plan on swimming, be cautious around natural bodies of water including ocean shoreline, rivers and lakes. Cold temperatures, currents and underwater hazards can make a fall into these bodies of water dangerous.
- If you go boating, wear a life jacket! Most boating fatalities occur from drowning.
- Avoid alcohol use. Alcohol impairs judgment, balance and coordination; affects swimming and diving skills; and reduces the body's ability to stay warm.

Prevent Unsupervised Access to the Water

- Install and use barriers around your home pool or hot tub. Safety covers and pool alarms should be added as additional layers of protection.

- Ensure that pool barriers enclose the entire pool area, are at least 4-feet high with gates that are self-closing, self-latching and open outward, and away from the pool. The latch should be high enough to be out of a small child's reach.
- If you have an above-ground or inflatable pool, remove access ladders and secure the safety cover whenever the pool is not in use.
- Remove any structures that provide access to the pool, such as outdoor furniture, climbable trees, decorative walls and playground equipment.
- Keep toys that are not in use away from the pool and out of sight. Toys can attract young children to the pool.

Maintain Constant Supervision

- Actively supervise kids whenever around the water—even if lifeguards are present. Do not just drop your kids off at the public pool or leave them at the beach — designate a responsible adult to supervise.
- Always stay within arm's reach of young children and avoid distractions when supervising children around water.

Know What to Do in an Emergency. If a child is missing, check the water first. Seconds count in preventing death or disability.

- Know how and when to call 9-1-1 or the local emergency number.
- If you own a home pool or hot tub, have appropriate equipment, such as reaching or throwing equipment, a cell phone, life jackets and a first aid kit.
- Enroll in Red Cross home pool safety, water safety, first aid and CPR/AED courses to learn how to prevent and respond to emergencies.

PLACER COUNTY FIRE

CAL FIRE



LOCAL 2881

FOR OVER 40 YEARS WE HAVE BEEN PROVIDING ALL-RISK FIRE PROTECTION THROUGH EIGHT STATIONS IN PLACER COUNTY SPECIALIZING IN:

- Year-round all-hazard fire and emergency services
- Servicing over 475 Sq. miles of unincorporated county area
- Responding to over 8500 calls yearly

SERVICES INCLUDE:

Fire Protection
Fire Prevention
EMS (Basic & Advanced)
Hazardous Materials Response
Technical Rescue
Dispatch

Paid for by CAL FIRE Local 2881 Issues Committee FPPC ID. 1277100

Choose fire-resistant plants and materials

COURTESY CALFIRE

Create fire-safe zones with stone walls, patios, decks and roadways.

Use rock, mulch, flower beds and gardens as ground cover for bare spaces and as effective firebreaks.

There are no “fire-proof” plants. Select high-moisture plants that grow close to the ground and have a low sap or resin content.

Choose fire-retardant plant species that resist ignition such as rockrose, ice plant and aloe.

Select fire-resistant shrubs such as hedging roses, bush honeysuckles, currant, cotoneaster, sumac and shrub apples.

Plant hardwood, maple, poplar and cherry trees that are less flammable than pine, fir and other conifers.

Check your local nursery, landscape contractor or county’s UC Cooperative Extension service for advice on fire-resistant plants that are suited for your area.



California Red Bud



French Lavender



Sage



Ornamental Strawberry



Coreopsis



California Fuchsia



California Lilac



Yellow Ice Plant



Red Monkey Flower



Society Garlic

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People with disabilities have additional needs to get prepared

SUBMITTED BY PLACER INDEPENDENT SERVICES

Your ability to recover from an emergency tomorrow may depend on the planning and preparation you do today. In addition to making a plan and building a kit, here are a few more tips which individuals with disabilities and others with access and functional needs can do to prepare for emergencies before they happen. Although you may need to shelter in place for two or three days, you need to prepare a “go kit.” Some special items may include:

- Extra batteries for hearing aids;
- Battery chargers for motorized wheelchairs or other battery-operated medical or assistive technology devices;
- Copies of medical prescriptions, doctor’s orders, and the style and serial numbers of the support devices you use;
- Medical alert tags or bracelets or written descriptions of your disability and support needs, in case you are unable to describe the situation in an emergency;
- Supplies for your service animal including food, ID collar, and medications,
- Medical insurance cards, Medicare/Medicaid cards, physician contact information, list of your allergies and health history;
- If possible, extra oxygen, insulin, catheters, or other medical supplies you use regularly;
- Inform your support network where you keep your emergency supplies.



For more detailed information and to view videos online, go to: www.ready.gov/individuals-access-functional-needs.

Placer Independent Resource Services (PIRS) provides services for individuals with disabilities, and also offers emergency preparedness workshops free of charge for any community groups and businesses.

Topics include how to make an emergency preparedness plan; what you need in an emergency kit; what to do during an evacuation; what you can expect in an emergency shelter; and what kinds of medical help is available during an emergency.

For more information or to schedule a workshop, contact Emily at PIRS, 530-885-6100.



PLACER INDEPENDENT RESOURCE SERVICES



A Nonprofit, Non-Residential, Independent Living Center
Serving People with Disabilities in Placer, El Dorado & Alpine Counties

Our mission is to advocate, empower, educate the community and provide services for people with disabilities, enabling them to control their alternatives for independent living.

11768 Atwood Road #29, Auburn

(530) 885-6100

TTY 530-885-0326

TOLL FREE 1-800-833-3453

www.pirs.org



Are you financially prepared for a wildfire?

Protect what is important to you — get your finances and property ready for wildfires

COURTESY CALFIRE

A home is generally your largest asset. Protect it. Insurance is the critical back-up plan enabling you to rebuild your home after a wildfire. Federal catastrophe grants are not enough to rebuild a home. Make sure your family's financial safety net is in place, in case disaster strikes.

Tips 1: Conduct an annual insurance check up

Call your agent or insurance company annually to discuss your policy limits and coverage. Make sure your policy reflects the correct square footage and features in your home. Consider purchasing building code upgrade coverage.

Tips 2: Know what your policy covers

The details matter. Understand if you have a replacement cost policy that pays to replace all your items at current market price or an actual cash value policy that takes depreciation into account and pays less for aged items.

Tips 3: Update your policy to cover home improvements

If you make home improvements, be sure to call your agent or company to update your coverage. Make sure your insurer knows about the changes, so the new countertops, floors or room are covered if you must rebuild.

Tips 4: Maintain insurance

If your home is paid off, be sure to maintain homeowner insurance. With-

out insurance, do you have the money to rebuild your home? Check with loved ones whose homes are paid off to be sure they continue to carry homeowner insurance.

Tips 5: Get renters insurance

Renters can lose everything in a fire and be left to start over. Many insurers bundle renters insurance coverage with an auto insurance policy at affordable prices.

MAKE A HOME INVENTORY

Document the contents of your home before a fire occurs. Use your smartphone to video your belongings. Keep your inventory and photos outside home or in the cloud.

Tip 1: Video or photograph each

room of your home.

Remember to document drawers and closets.

Tip 2: Describe your home's contents in your video.

Mention the price you paid, where and when you bought the item.

Tip 3: Remember to note important or expensive items.

Video your electronics, appliances, sports equipment, TVs, computers, tablets.

Tip 4: Save receipts for major purchases.

Store key documents in the cloud or fireproof case. Keep home inventory offsite or in the cloud.

Tip 5: Video the Garage

Don't forget to document the garage.



**Do you live in a brush area?
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WILDFIRE IS COMING. ARE YOU READY?



Defensible Space is your property's front line defense against wildfire. Creating and maintaining defensible space around your home can dramatically increase your home's chance of surviving a wildfire and improves the safety of firefighters defending your property. 100 feet of defensible space is required by law.*



ONE LESS SPARK
ONE LESS WILDFIRE

*For more information on creating defensible space and legal requirements visit

READYFORWILDFIRE.ORG

TWO ZONES MAKE UP THE REQUIRED 100 FEET OF DEFENSIBLE SPACE:

ZONE 1: 30 feet of Lean, Clean & Green

- 1 Remove all dead plants, grass and weeds.
- 2 Remove dead or dry leaves and pine needles from your yard, roof and rain gutters.
- 3 Keep tree branches 10 feet away from your chimney and other trees.

ZONE 2: 30-100 feet of Reduced Fuel

- 4 Cut or mow annual grass down to a maximum height of 4 inches.
- 5 Create horizontal spacing between shrubs and trees.
- 6 Create vertical spacing between grass, shrubs and trees.

Use Equipment Properly to Keep from Sparking a Wildfire

- 7 Mow before 10 a.m., and never on a hot or windy day. String trimmers are a safer option (vs. lawnmowers) for clearing vegetation.



VERTICAL SPACING

Large trees do not have to be cut and removed as long as all of the plants beneath them are removed. This eliminates a vertical "fire ladder."



HORIZONTAL SPACING

Create horizontal and vertical spacing between plants, the amount of spacing will depend on how steep the slope is and the size of the plants.

Healthy ponds provide fishing, musing and great irrigation

SUBMITTED BY DLD POND SERVICE

Ponds have been part of Auburn resident Dana Andrews' life for decades. "For many years we lived on a big property — 300 acres — in Placer County. We had ponds and always had drag lines coming out. I ended up buying equipment to clean our ponds. Then someone saw me doing that and asked if I'd clean theirs."

It soon developed into a business, now called DLD Service.

"We basically do anything that has to do with ponds, creeks and waterways," Andrews said. "We build ponds. We clean ponds. We clear creeks. We install irrigation systems (connected to) ponds."

His focus is earthen ponds at least 30 feet by 80 feet in diameter that usually have some features — a pump or dock or they are used for fish.

"Many of our customers have ponds so they can fish and enjoy the environment around it," he said.

When planning a new pond, he goes to the site to see where it will be installed, then produces a custom drawing (or several) of designs that fit the space.

"I have to know what the customer wants and then will (plan) something the ground and land will allow," he said. "We don't usually do square, rectangular or round ponds. We use an undulating look to give shapes that look unique." That unique look also extends to the levees. "We give them almost a golf course look," he said. "They looked tucked in and have very gradual shorelines — usually a slight mounding to give them a natural look."

Cost to install a pond ranges from \$8,500 for the most basic to "several hundred thousand," he said. Extras like a dock, bridge or water feature add to the cost.

He estimates he has installed or worked on about 500 ponds — many of them repairs and cleanups.

Take care of your pond and it will reward you as a beautiful addition to the landscape. But neglect it, and you will quickly have problems. Overgrowth is the most common complaint. What Andrews sees most frequently are cattails, Eurasian water milfoil and mesquite fern (also known as azolla).

"Eurasian milfoil can grow at incredible depths," he said. "When infestation takes over, it looks like



evergreens in your pond."

An infestation of azolla turns the pond red. "It will grow right across the top and completely close off the surface," he said. "It is a fern that multiplies very quickly and within a few days. In a week the pond can be completely covered."

Often the invasion come from downstream or is carried by waterfowl. "It gets stuck to them and as they go from one water source to another, it spreads," he said.

There are two ways to treat severe infestation — mechanical and chemical. "As everyone is supposed to in California, we basically try to use as little as we can in chemicals," he said. "If there is another way to treat the problem, we do that. Our last line of defense is chemicals."

Aeration and keeping the water moving are very important to a pond's health.

"Many are not connected to a creek, so they have irrigation water," Andrews said.

"We bring it from (ditchwater) or a pipe source. ... In some cases ponds do not have any incoming or outgoing (water source). Evaporation is substantial. Even a small pond loses thousands of gallons of water a day to evaporation. So you have to have a way to replenish it."

For pond clearing, Andrews brings out the drag line to scrape the sediment, and says he doesn't know of anyone else in Placer County that still uses that method.

"It is kind of old school, but has a distinct advantage," he said. "To be able to remove the sediment

and work underwater without hydraulics, that's key because today's modern equipment is all hydraulics. If you have a hose fail (with hydraulics), you have turned it into an environmental disaster because you've just dumped gallons of oil into the water source. With (our drag line), that risk does not exist."

One of his recent projects was restoring a two-acre pond for Loomis resident Doug English. "It was fully infested with milfoil and cattails and the water was stagnant," Andrews said. "The aquatics eco-system had fallen off. ... It was so green. If you didn't look close, you wouldn't have known it was a pond."

Andrews' crew dredged it, treated it and added an aeration system. English describes Andrews as "pretty much a genius."

"It isn't just ponds he knows. He's also a specialist at everything outdoors — irrigation, landscaping, wildlife," English said. "... We had a beaver issue on our pond and he told us how to take care of that. He built bridges and understands aerators (which draw in and recirculate the water). It's good for the fish and for the health of the pond."

You don't raise fish; you raise the water in the pond. And he understands that."

English's now pristine pond is stocked with bass, blue gill and catfish. But it was an eyesore when he first saw it.

"The pond was terrible and most buyers would walk away after seeing it," he said. "I didn't really know what I was getting into, but I knew it could be cleaned. After research, I knew (Andrews) was the person to do it the right way. ... There's a step-by-step process to make sure the pond stays healthy and you don't kill the fish."

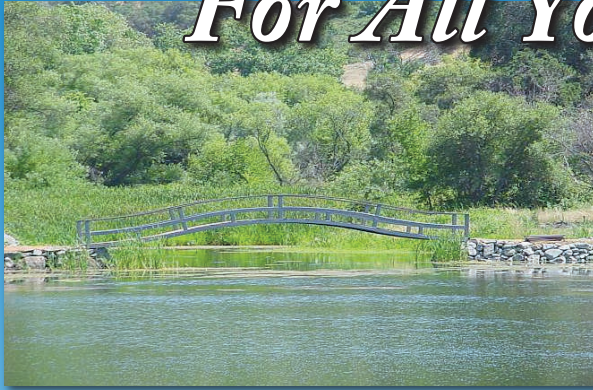
"My wife probably had other ideas, but the most important thing to me was the pond. Everything else was second. That was the first thing we worked on and everything else was second. Since then, we've put in an acre of zinfandel grapes."

He helped us on that as well. He's a genius with anything outdoors. He's been right about everything he told me would happen. Everything I've run past him he's always been correct on."

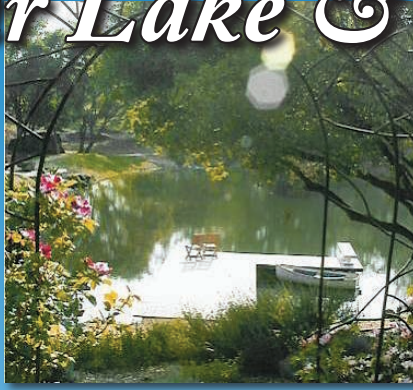
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