

Northeast Sammamish Sewer and Water District
3600 Sahalee Way Northeast
Sammamish, Washington 98074

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Northeast Sammamish Sewer and Water District
COMMUNITY UPDATE • FALL 2017



Northeast Sammamish Sewer and Water District

Board of Commissioners

Paul Sentena • *President*
Paul Robinett • *Secretary*
Wayne DeMeester



We are privileged to serve as your District commissioners and are **dedicated to providing you with the region's best tasting drinking water.**

This is combined with our commitment to ensure you receive the highest level of customer service.

This newsletter is an update on the District and our work to maintain and improve our community water system, along with news that we hope you will find beneficial.

It is our goal to be open and accessible to our customers. You can call us at (425) 868-1144 or visit our website – **nesswd.org** – for the latest information, tips on how to conserve water and contact details for Commissioners and District staff.

Our District was established by citizen vote in 1969 and remains **independent & accountable to you** – *our customers.*

Our water source is groundwater from wells on the Sammamish Plateau and Evans Creek Valley. We work daily to protect and monitor this sensitive area along with local streams.

We work to bring you the safest and highest quality drinking water.

Please Attend!

Commissioner Meetings

The Northeast Sammamish Sewer and Water District Board **meets on the first and third Wednesday** at 7:30 AM in the District office. We invite you to attend and learn more about your district and our effort to provide superior service to you.

Want to pay your bill online?
Visit nesswd.org to sign up



Northeast Sammamish Sewer and Water District

Open Monday to Friday
7:30 AM to 4:00 PM
3600 Sahalee Way Northeast
Sammamish, Washington 98074
(425) 868-1144



Visit our website
for answers to
your questions @
nesswd.org

Inside Information

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Protecting our Homes & Families



It's Time to Winterize!

While NESSWD is responsible for water from the source to the meter, it is your responsibility to protect the pipes from the meter and through your home. Even a small pipe break can cause thousands of dollars in damage.

Disconnect Garden Hoses:

Remove garden hoses from exterior hose bibs and protect them with inexpensive covers. Have a professional winterize your irrigation system by blowing out water or draining it.

Insulate Your Pipes:

Use pipe wrap in an unheated garage or crawl space. Allowing a faucet to drip warm water can provide some protection, but never leave water running in a vacant home. Opening cabinet doors can allow heat to get to uninsulated pipes under the sink and appliances near exterior walls.

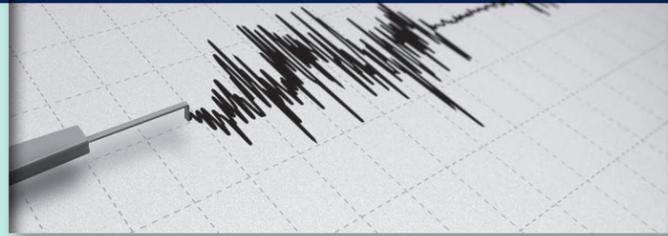
Locate Your Water Shut-Off:

Make sure everyone in your family knows the location of your water shut off valve. Contact NESSWD staff if you need help.

Protect Vacant Homes:

If you leave your house for several days, please take steps to protect pipes from freezing:

- * Turn off the water at the main shut off.
- * Open indoor and outdoor faucets to drain pipes.
- * Leave your heat on at a minimum temperature setting to help protect interior wall pipes.



Earthquake Safety

A New Early Warning System

Everyone who lives in Washington knows that our state is part of an active earthquake zone. As a key survival utility, NESSWD applied and was accepted into the pilot study for the ShakeAlert Network to provide you and your family with extra protection should any seismic event happen.

Shake Alert is the West Coast's first network-based earthquake warning system. It is a complex network of sensors and processors managed primarily by the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS). In our state, ShakeAlert is operated in cooperation with the Pacific Northwest Seismic Network. The system has hundreds of seismic sensors throughout the West Coast connected to a processing center located at the University of Washington.

While the Shake Alert technology and hardware have been under development for a long time, a real-time reaction ability is only now available. It has taken years to implement the array of sensors and the complex software required to detect an earthquake and warn both agencies and citizens alike. The creation of the ShakeAlert signal, for beneficial purposes, is brand new.

The aim of the USGS pilot program in our state is to prevent the loss of critical fresh water supplies. For example, automatic valves pre-installed on reservoirs would be closed before an earthquake hits to prevent them from draining should pipes break. Additionally, power would be temporarily shut down at wells to prevent fire and damage to pumps. These safeguards would be a major asset to protect our distribution system in the event of an earthquake and help ensure more rapid restoration of water supply to your home.



2018 Sewer and Water Rates

To ensure proper maintenance and improvement in facilities, the District has adopted new water and sewer rates for 2018. As a result, District water rates will increase 3% next year while sewer rates are increasing by 5%. We are committed to offering the highest quality service at a reasonable cost to our customers.

SEWER RATES

Below are the new bi-monthly sewer rates.

	2017	2018
King County	\$88.44	\$88.44
NESSWD	\$50.24	\$52.76
	\$138.68	\$141.20

The Northeast Sammamish Sewer and Water District collects and pipes sewage to King County which provides treatment. As a result, the county sets sewage treatment rates for all utility districts served by King County.

WATER RATES

The new bi-monthly rates for a ¾" meter will be:

	2017	2018
Base Rate	\$38.46	\$39.62

Consumption cost per hundred cubic feet:

	2017	2018
0 to 1300 cf	\$2.68	\$2.76
1301-1700 cf	\$4.26	\$4.39
1701- 2600 cf	\$6.17	\$6.36
Over 2600 cf	\$8.09	\$8.33

Below is an example of a bi-monthly water bill for a ¾" meter under different usage scenarios.

	2017	2018
1700 cf (avg use)	\$90.34	\$93.06
2600 cf (summer use)	\$145.87	\$150.30

CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

Work has started in Sahalee to replace 4,830 feet of asbestos cement pipe with ductile iron pipe.

This improvement will ensure reliable delivery of water to your home for decades to come.

This project is part of the District's ongoing effort to modernize & revitalize our system.



Testing keeps our water safe and clean

Water Quality

To ensure high quality water, NESSWD conducts regular supply system tests.

You may have read about positive perfluorinated compound (PFC) results in other utilities. NESSWD has completed comprehensive water testing and there were no PFCs detected in our supply.

Don't Flush Trouble

Flushing anything besides what comes naturally and toilet paper can block pipes and cause a sewage backflow into your home. There's nothing worse than an overflow from a sewer clog — and the repair bills are very expensive.

The most important rule is to not believe any label that describes a product as "flushable".

Pumps across the District annually require tens of thousands of dollars in maintenance to clear wet wipes, paper towels, facial tissue, dental floss, feminine hygiene products, cat litter, congealed oils and other items that should be disposed of in the garbage bin.