



Water Lines

MOUNT PLEASANT WATERWORKS

JULY 2009

Hurricane Season

is underway, and household plans should begin with a clean, safe water supply. Here are some things you can do to prepare for a major storm.



PREPARATION

How To Safely Collect and Store Water

#1 — Use the right type of container!



- Store regular tap water in half-gallon or one gallon containers, preferably made of heavy plastic with screw caps such as soft drink containers.
- Fill containers completely. **DO NOT USE DISCARDED PLASTIC MILK CONTAINERS** with press on caps because they do not seal well.

- Inspect containers for leaks or any other undesirable conditions that might develop.
- Mark containers with current date, and store bottles in a cool, dark place—or in a black plastic trash bag—to keep out light.

#2 — How much water will your family need?

The average household should have three gallons of water per person (and pets) per day for cooking and drinking. You should keep at least three days' supply.

#3 — Bottle your tap water!

Purchased bottled water does not keep as well as normal tap water. Tap water contains disinfectants to guard against microbe growth.

#4 — Collect water for non-potable uses.

Store large volumes of water for flushing toilets, cleaning, etc., in the bathtub and other large containers.

If You Evacuate—



Turn off the water heater at the breaker.

Be sure to turn off your water heater before shutting off the water. The heater could be damaged without a steady water supply.

Shut off the water supply to your house.

If you plan to evacuate, your water can be shut off at either the cut-off valve or at the water meter. Shutting off the water prevents further water damage in your home in the event water lines are broken.

How to shut off the water:

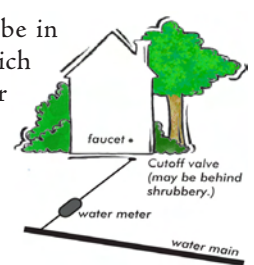
The valve (usually with a wheel-type handle) is normally under the water faucet outside, approximately 18 inches below the ground and

HURRICANE CHECKLIST

- Have a **family plan** for either riding out the storm or evacuating.
- Include a **family directory** with important contact information, including phone and email of family, friends and emergency services.
- Create a **"safe water" supply** for emergencies (see [How To Safely Collect and Store Water](#)).
- Have a fully-stocked **first-aid kit** available.
- Stock up** on batteries, canned and packaged foods, pet supplies, and buy a few battery-powered portable fans to keep cool if the power is off.

How to shut off the water:—continued

2 feet from the house. It will be in line with your water meter, which is located near the edge of your property line near the street. (Your meter box may have a handle valve that can be used to turn off the water.)



RECOVERY!

After a Storm Has Passed

Monitor media reports for "boil water" notice. If the water was contaminated during the storm, you will need to use your purified, stored water.

Mark your water meter and other utility devices with a brightly colored stick or object to protect it from roadside debris cleanup.

Don't place hurricane debris on top of water meters, hydrants, manhole covers, or other exposed utility lines! Our water, wastewater and meter reading crews will need unhindered access, as well as the fire department, electric, and phone utility crews.

Minimize use of water if you don't have electricity after a storm. A power outage can cause raw wastewater to overflow in some areas.

Conserve water use to minimize the impact on our treatment plants until system conditions return to normal. Wait at least 48 hours after a storm passes to use water for non-essential cleaning (cars, boats, etc.), or until conservation notices are lifted.

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RECOVERY!

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If a "boil water" notice is issued, you can make water safe to drink using any of the following methods:

- Boil vigorously for 3 to 5 minutes.
- Purchase purification tablets from a drug store and follow directions.
- Add 8 drops of unscented, standard household liquid bleach (contains Hypochlorite, usually 5.25%) to a gallon of water. Let stand for a minimum of 30 minutes before using. *Do not use granular bleach.*
- Tincture of Iodine: Same as bleach.



IMPORTANT CONTACT INFO

Mount Pleasant Waterworks
884-9626

MountPleasantWaterworks.com

Town of Mount Pleasant
884-8517

TownofMountPleasant.com

Charleston County Emergency Preparedness • 202-7400
CharlestonCounty.org

American Red Cross • 764-2323
LowcountryRedCross.org

S.C. Highway Patrol • 953-6000

For comprehensive hurricane preparedness and recovery instructions, go to the Federal Emergency Management Agency's website:

fema.gov/hazard/hurricane/index.shtm

The MPW Commission Newsletter Water Lines is produced in-house and mailed to customers each month with bills and statements. Current and past issues can also be viewed and downloaded from our website:

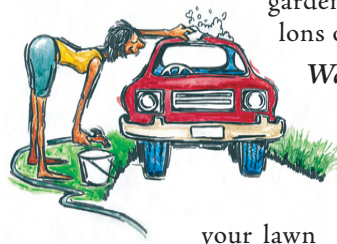
Save Money on Your Water Bill



Use Water Wisely Outside

When you wash your car

Use the least amount of water necessary to get the job done. Close the hose on wasteful watering—use a bucket of soapy water to wash the car, then rinse with the hose. Never leave the hose running while you wash — the average garden hose can waste eight to 11 gallons of water per minute!



Water your grass when you wash the car. If you can park your car on your lawn (mind the irrigation fixtures!), the water won't go wasting into the street, and your lawn will benefit from the runoff.

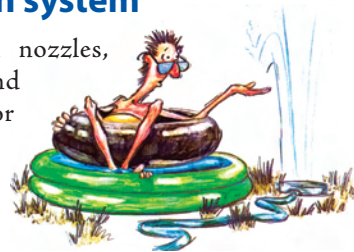
If you own a swimming pool

Always use a pool cover when not in use. An uncovered pool can lose more than 1,500 gallons of water each month, depending on weather conditions, sun exposure and water temperature. Covers help reduce water loss by as much as 90-percent and many brands also provide excellent safety ratings.

Check your irrigation system

Identify broken or plugged nozzles, broken or misaligned heads and any broken lines. Also check for damaged sprinkler heads—especially after mowing.

If your system runs by a "controller or automatic clock", periodic adjustment of schedules is important to compensate for current weather patterns.



Turn off the sprinklers when it's windy as most of the water is lost to evaporation. And let nature do the watering: turn off your irrigation system when it's raining!

MPW Operations Center

1619 Rifle Range Road

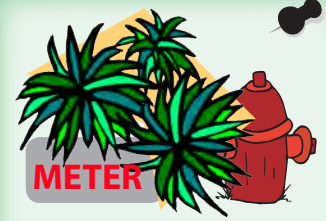
Monday - Friday • 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

884-9626 • 884-4858 (fax)

customerservice@mpwonline.com

Email requests will be processed the following business day.

Quick News and Notes



Please Don't Block Access to Meters and Hydrants

Water meters and fire hydrants are installed in public easements and must be visible and easily accessible at all times to both water and fire department crews.

Please don't cover meters or surround hydrants with plants, pine straw, etc. Plants and shrubs may also be hiding snakes, spiders, red ants, wasps and other biting or stinging creatures that lurk in the landscaping. Even the shrubs themselves can cut or stab.

So please help us by leaving clear access around our meters and hydrants!

Be Careful Where You Dig

Before planting trees or doing any construction digging near the water service line, draw a visual line from your meter to the point where the line enters your home to be sure you don't cut the line accidentally.

How May We Help You?

Contact us at 884-9626 -or- customerservice@mpwonline.com.