01 SAFE DRINKING WATER

TULSA'S MOST VALUABLE RESOURCE

The City of Tulsa works diligently to deliver safe drinking water to you and your family and joins the American Water Works Association in celebrating Drinking Water Week, May 7-13, 2017. The water that flows freely through your tap delivers many things no other water can deliver. What do you know about H2O?

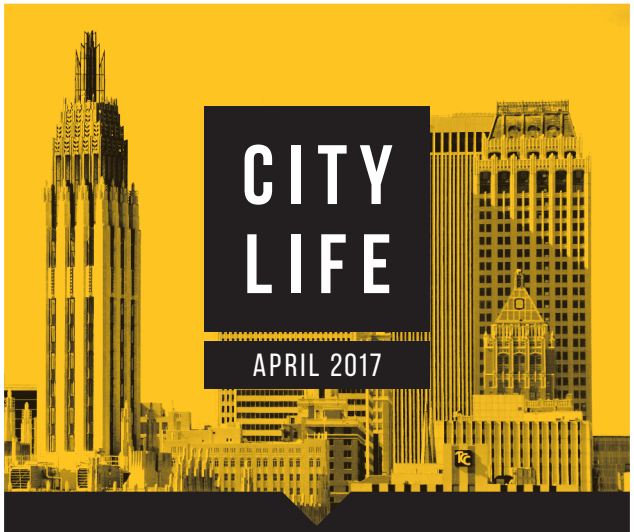
Public Health Protection: Our first obligation is to provide water that is safe for consumption and protects the public health. In parts of the world without modern water systems, an estimated 3 million people die every year from preventable waterborne diseases like cholera and dysentery. In contrast, stringent U.S. water regulations require water systems to regularly monitor for more than 100 contaminants and meet public health-based standards.

Tulsa's Safeguards Against Lead: A well-maintained water system is critical in protecting Tulsa from events like what happened in Flint, Mich. The City of Tulsa utilizes an extensive corrosion control treatment process that monitors pH, alkalinity and other water quality parameters. This process produces water that slightly scales on the inside of pipes, rather than corroding pipe materials that could potentially contain lead. Tulsa also performs routine monitoring for lead and copper throughout the city and continually demonstrates compliance with all lead and copper regulatory guidelines.

Economic Support: Tap water is critical to the daily operations of existing businesses and the viability of new commercial or residential development. Businesses must consider the quality, availability and dependability of water services when determining the location of manufacturing facilities. The availability of water has a profound effect on job creation.

Quality of Life: Tap water is also an essential part of our lives – we can hardly imagine a day without it. If the City of Tulsa didn't have a reliable source of water, how would we wash clothes or dishes, bathe, flush toilets, or water our yards? How would businesses operate? Some measures of a successful society are due to the accessibility of safe water, resulting in low mortality rates, economic diversity, productivity and public safety.

A service that delivers public health, economic development and quality of life is invaluable. Now you know about H2O!



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02 ATTENTION, PLEASE

AVOID DISTRACTIONS WHILE DRIVING

Tulsa is joining the National Safety Council to observe April as Distracted Driving Awareness Month to draw attention to this epidemic. The Council reminds drivers, "You deserve to disconnect and put safety first – Take Back Your Drive."

The National Safety Council encourages drivers to take the following Pledge to be an Attentive Driver:

I pledge to Take Back My Drive for my own safety and for others with whom I share the roads. I choose to not drive distracted in any way – I will not:

- **Have a phone conversation – handheld, hands-free or via Bluetooth**
- **Text or send Snapchats**
- **Use voice-to-text features in my vehicle's dashboard system**
- **Update Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, Vimeo, Vine or other social media**
- **Check or send emails**
- **Take selfies or film videos**
- **Input destinations into GPS (while the vehicle is in motion)**

03 SAFE ROOM BENEFITS

BE PREPARED FOR TORNADOES, FLOODS

To ensure safe construction and proper installation, safe rooms built or installed within the City of Tulsa are required to have a building permit before construction. This is particularly true when building or installing safe rooms in flood-prone areas.

Flood hazards are an important consideration when placing an above-or below-ground safe room in a new or existing home. Below-ground safe rooms must be designed to avoid accumulating water during the heavy rains that often accompany severe windstorms.

Homeowners should contact the City of Tulsa Permit Center at (918) 596-9456 to obtain a safe room building permit. City staff can help you determine what additional requirements or restrictions there may be for your safe room if your property is located in a floodplain.

If you already have a safe room at your home or office, you should consider participating in the City of Tulsa's Storm Shelter Registry. This registry provides information to emergency responders to help them locate citizens after a natural disaster such as a tornado. Having a registered safe room will provide emergency personnel with time-saving information should your safe room be blocked by debris.

You can register your safe room online with your City utility account number. To participate in the registry, go to **www.cityoftulsa.org** and search for "safe room." After registering, you can call the City of Tulsa Customer Care Center at 311 to request that Tulsa Fire Department personnel visit your home or business and obtain the exact GPS coordinates of your safe room.

Tornadoes are dangerous, but the severe storms and flash flooding that often accompany them can be just as dangerous. During a tornado warning, it is always best to use a safe room or shelter in place in a sturdy building with as many walls between you and the tornado as possible and at the lowest level of the house. If you are in a mobile home, find a sturdy building or preferably a safe room you can go to when the storm threatens and allow plenty of time to get to it. You should always avoid basements with a history of flooding.

SAFE DIGGING MONTH

PIPELINE SAFETY IN OUR COMMUNITY

April is National Safe Digging Month. Before you begin any outdoor projects this spring, consider the following information that can keep you and your neighborhood safe.

As you know, the City of Tulsa provides water, sewer and stormwater service through a network of underground pipes. Your private water and sewer lines connect to the City's system. When you combine these piping systems with the electric, natural gas and telecommunications networks, it's easy to see why utility lines can be damaged if not properly located before digging.

Call Before You Dig – please be cautious before you begin any construction project on your property. While digging, if you accidentally hit the utility networks buried underground, you could interrupt services that thousands of people depend on, and put yourself in danger as well. Whether you're planting a tree, or installing a deck or sprinkler system, state law requires calling 811 at least 48 hours before you plan to dig, to allow all utility line locations to be marked. There's no charge to you for this service.

The City of Tulsa and other member utilities participate in "Call Okie," the Oklahoma One-Call System, which locates and marks their underground infrastructure, including pipelines, cables and wires within 48 hours of a request.

The City of Tulsa encourages you to be safe and avoid costly repairs: plan ahead and call 811 to locate underground utilities prior to digging. For more information, please visit: **www.callokie.com**

04 SEWER MAINTENANCE

CHECK CLEAN-OUT, BACK-WATER VALVE

A sewer clean-out is a vertical pipe that provides access to a property's sewer service, allowing homeowners or plumbers to clear blockages that disrupt service. A clean-out cap is typically white PVC or metal, about 4 inches in diameter, and located near buildings.

Both homeowners and tenants should locate and inspect their clean-out cap before a plumbing emergency occurs. Keeping the caps screwed onto the clean-out helps prevent possible sewer backups caused by yard debris, dirt, and other items entering the sewer system. Capping also stops excessive inflow and infiltration, which can overload our system and cause sewer overflows.

A back-water valve is the resident's protection against sewer back-up into the structure. If water tries to back up from the sewer mainline, the valve prevents sewage from backing up into the building. Back-water valves are typically located either outside near the building or in a floor drain in a basement. Those outside have a cap similar to a clean-out cap and a vertical pipe down to the valve.

You can protect yourself from sewer problems by making sure you have an accessible clean-out, keeping your sewer line in good condition, and by making sure you have a functional back-water valve.