

## WHAT IS A SEWAGE BACK-UP?

The back-up of sewage through the drains in your home or business is an unpleasant prospect. Fortunately, there are steps you can take to protect your property.

Wastewater flows through small pipes on your property to the larger, sewer main in the street. From there, the sewage travels by gravity or pressure to the treatment plant. The flow is constant, with peaks in the morning and evening. Each day millions of gallons of wastewater safely reach the treatment plant to be reclaimed and returned to the environment.

The District has an aggressive sewer main inspection and maintenance program; however, over time, our sewer mains can and do become partially or fully blocked due to roots and/or other debris introduced into the sewage system. When blockages occur in the sewer main, sewage can backup into a house lateral, and, if not properly protected, directly into residences or businesses.



Installing a backflow or backwater prevention device can protect your residence or business from overflows or surges occurring in the main sewer lines. District rules and regulations require sewer backflow prevention devices in residences and other buildings whose lowest sewer fixture is below that of the upstream manhole.

Remember that you must measure the height of your lowest plumbing fixture against the height of the upstream manhole cover, not the height of the street or the underground sewer main in front of your house. Backflow device installation and maintenance are the responsibility of the property owner. If you are unsure if you need a backwater device, please call the office to arrange an inspection.



# Crescenta Valley Water District PIPELINE

(818) 248-3925 www.cvwd.com

March / April 2008

## MAY IS WATER AWARENESS MONTH !!

To celebrate, Crescenta Valley Water District is hosting a barbeque and open house for the community, CVWD employees and their families. Come eat, have some fun and learn about water conservation.



### CRESCENTA VALLEY WATER DISTRICT

**Saturday, May 3rd**  
**11:00 AM to 2:00 PM**  
3730 Glenwood Avenue  
La Crescenta, CA 91214

Included in the fun:

Experience Razzle Bam Boom's hilarious musical stage show about the journey of water, "H<sub>2</sub>O, WHERE DO YOU GO?"

Food will be provided by:



R.S.V.P by email or phone: [cjscott@cvwd.com](mailto:cjscott@cvwd.com), or 818-248-3925 no later than April 4th and receive a **FREE GIFT** when you attend this event.

## CALENDAR SECTION



CVWD will be closed Monday May 26th for Memorial Day

### CVWD Scheduled Board Meetings

CVWD conducts their board meetings at the administration office located at 2700 Foothill Blvd. at 7:00 p.m. on the first and third Tuesday of every month. Board meeting agendas and minutes can be viewed or printed from our website [www.cvwd.com](http://www.cvwd.com).

Tuesday, March 4th and 18th

Tuesday, April 1st and 15th

Tuesday, May 6th and 20th

### Crescenta Valley Town Council

Crescenta Valley Town Council Meetings are held the third Thursday of each month at 7 p.m. in the Career Center at Crescenta Valley High School located at; 2900 Community Ave. in La Crescenta.

March 20th

April 17th

May 15th

*Don't forget you can watch the Crescenta Valley Town Council in action every Wednesday from 8:00 p.m. - 11:00 p.m. on Charter Cable station 28.*

## Water Conservation

CVWD wants to help you save water. Check out our rebate programs...



- \$ 165.00 on qualifying high efficiency toilets
- \$ 60.00 on qualifying low flow toilets
- \$ 100.00 on qualifying clothes washers
- \$ 50.00 per 100 square feet of turf replaced with native plants
- \$ 80.00 per 100 square feet of turf replaced with synthetic turf
- \$ 80.00 on qualifying ET Controllers
- \$ 4.00 per head on mp rotator sprinkler heads

Check out [www.bewaterwise.com](http://www.bewaterwise.com) for more water tips or call 818-248-3925 for more information.

## Sprinkler Maintenance

When it rains, landscapes can become saturated. CVWD encourages all commercial and residential customers to turn off their irrigation systems for one week following a significant rainfall event. When you need to water again, make sure you select a program that is correct for this time of year. The cooler temperatures and increased humidity and precipitation will mean that your landscaping can go longer between watering cycles. If you need help, log on to [www.bewaterwise.com](http://www.bewaterwise.com). This site can help you create a custom watering schedule for your home.

For single family homes, the largest portion of water use is outdoors. Make sure that you remember to regularly check irrigation systems for leaks, overspray, pressure, damaged or broken sprinklers (heads, pipes, emitters, tilted heads, and valves). A single broken sprinkler head, at standard household water pressure of 60 PSI, will waste 13 gallons per minute. If that sprinkler head is left broken, that's up to 7,800 gallons a month!!

## April is Earthquake Preparedness Month

The Red Cross would like to remind community members to have a family disaster plan to ensure that all family members know what to do, where to go and who to call in case of a disaster. Having the right tools, medicine and food in a disaster can mean the difference between life and death. The Red Cross recommends that everyone have an emergency disaster kit at home, in the car and at work or school. (<http://www.arcglendale.org/>)

The Red Cross offers a variety of first aid and CPR classes to help community members learn the skills they need to respond in an emergency. For more information on available classes, preassembled disaster kits or for free disaster preparedness information contact the American Red Cross, 1501 S. Brand Blvd, Glendale, CA 91204, Telephone: 818-243-3121, Email: [info@arcglendale.org](mailto:info@arcglendale.org) or online at [www.arcglendale.org](http://www.arcglendale.org)

**How much water will you need? A minimum of one gallon per person per day**



## CVWD and Earthquake Preparedness

In the event of an earthquake or other disaster, the District will call its Emergency Operations Center into service and contact the local fire department. The District will perform an assessment of our system to determine priorities to provide safe, clean drinking water to your home.

The District has been working to upgrade your water system in case of an emergency or natural disaster by:

- Installation of emergency electrical generators at critical locations within the system
- Mobile emergency electrical generators on trailers that can be transported to CVWD's sites to maintain its booster pumps and groundwater wells

- Installation of seismic sensors that close valves on reservoirs to ensure that water is not lost due to waterline pipe breaks during an event
- Constructing water supply interconnections with the Cities of Glendale and Los Angeles

In the event a boil water order is necessary, the District will contact local media, post on the internet and provide signage throughout the Crescenta Valley to provide additional information.

The best way to insure good water is to boil the water vigorously for 7 - 10 minutes (Double this time if the water is cloudy).

If using swimming pool water or water from the tap that appears dirty, the water should first be strained through a coffee filter, cheesecloth, or a paper towel to remove suspended matter.

If you do not have emergency water stored, we suggest filling your bathtub with water and add Liquid Chlorine Beach to the water (8 drops per gallon of water, double this dose if the water is cloudy).

## Kids Corner

### Earthquakes

are the shaking, rolling or sudden shock of the earth's surface. Earthquakes happen along "fault lines" in the earth's crust. Earthquakes can be felt over large areas although they usually last less than one minute. Earthquakes cannot be predicted - although scientists are working on it!

Most of the time, you will notice an earthquake by the gentle shaking of the ground. You may notice hanging plants swaying or objects wobbling on shelves. Sometimes you may hear a low rumbling noise or feel a sharp jolt. A survivor of the 1906 earthquake in San Francisco said that the sensation was like riding a bicycle down a long flight of stairs.

### The

intensity of an earthquake can be measured. One measurement is called the Richter scale.

Earthquakes below 4.0 on the Richter scale usually do not cause damage, and earthquakes below 2.0 usually can't be felt. Earthquakes over 5.0 on the scale can cause damage. A magnitude 6.0 earthquake is considered strong and a magnitude 7.0 is a major earthquake. The Northridge Earthquake, which hit Southern California in 1994, was magnitude 6.7.

Earthquakes are sometimes called temblors, quakes, shakers or seismic activity. The most important thing to remember during an earthquake is to DROP, COVER and HOLD ON. So remember to DROP to the floor and get under something for COVER and HOLD ON during the shaking.

### Earthquakes

- ⊙ If you are indoors during an earthquake, keep calm and take cover under a heavy table or desk. Stay away from glass, windows or anything that could fall, like a bookcase.
- ⊙ If you are outdoors, move away from buildings, street lights and utility wires.
- ⊙ If you are in a crowded public place, do NOT rush for the doors. Everyone will be doing that. Instead, take cover under something heavy and stay away from things that could fall on you. Stay calm. Do not get in an elevator during an earthquake!
- ⊙ After an earthquake, be prepared for aftershocks. Aftershocks are follow-up earthquakes that are usually smaller than the first one. They are dangerous because they can cause things that are weakened in the first earthquake to fall down.
- ⊙ If you are home and you smell gas or hear a hissing or blowing sound, open a window and get out of the building right away. It may mean that a gas line in your house has been broken. Tell your parent or another adult.
- ⊙ Make sure you are wearing shoes after an earthquake. There may be broken glass on the ground and inside your home.
- ⊙ If you are scared, share your fears with an adult. Earthquakes can be scary, but remember - they only last a few seconds.

Earthquake information on this page provided by: [www.fema.gov](http://www.fema.gov)