

City of Vernonia provides some home water leak detection tips

In recent months on more than one occasion, the City of Vernonia Public Works Department has suspected that high water consumption may signal that a household or commercial water customer has a leak. The City of Vernonia provided the following information.

How to Find Your Leak

Undetected leaks can be costly. If you think you may have a water leak, your water meter is your best detective to help you find it:

- Turn off all faucets and water-using appliances, such as the dish and clothes washers.
- Locate your water meter and lift the cover to see the meter dial.
- Note the position of the sweep hand, or use a marker on the lens cover.
- Wait 20-30 minutes and

check the sweep hand location again. If the sweep hand has moved, you may have a leak somewhere in your system.

- Most meters have a red "telltale" indicator. If you see it moving when all water is off, you may have a leak.

Looking For Leaks

• Your toilet may have a silent leak. Drop a little food coloring into the tank. Wait about 10 minutes without flushing. If color appears in the bowl, you have a leak.

- Check for moist spots around and under the house plumbing and around outdoor plumbing.

• Replace worn washers in faucets and showerheads. Even a small drip can waste as much as 170 gallons of water each day, or 5,000 gallons per month.

Smaller homes are greener homes

A recently completed report commissioned by the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality, in collaboration with the Oregon Home Builders Association and Earth Advantage Institute, concludes that constructing smaller homes is among the best ways to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and waste generation from the residential construction sector.

The report concludes that, of 30 different material reduction and reuse practices evaluated, reducing home size was the most beneficial. DEQ examined environmental benefits from each of these practices against a "standard" Oregon home, defined for the study's purposes as a 2,262 square-foot, newly constructed home built to 2008 state energy codes. The study considered a "small" home to be about 1,630 square feet and an "extra-small" home to be 1,150 square feet. Many environmental benefits from small homes come in the form of reduced electricity and fuel use in the home, but also include the benefits of avoided materials production, according to the report.

Residential home construction, maintenance and demolition make up about 10 to 15 percent, by weight, of total waste generated in Oregon

each year.

The report, "A Life Cycle Approach to Prioritizing Methods of Preventing Waste from the Residential Construction Sector in the State of Oregon", is available on DEQ's website at <http://www.deq.state.or.us/lq/sw/wasteprevention/greenbuilding.htm>.

Tips to help prepare for winter

As you gear up for the rain, wind and snow season, follow these simple steps to keep your home warm and secure this winter:

- Insulate pipes in your home's crawl spaces and attic. Exposed pipes are most susceptible to freezing.

• Seal leaks that allow cold air inside. Look for air leaks around electrical wiring, dryer vents and pipes. Use caulk or insulation to keep the cold out and the heat in.

• Disconnect garden hoses and, if practical, use an indoor valve to shut off and drain water from pipes leading to outside faucets. This reduces the chance of freezing in the short span of pipe just inside the house.

• Clean out your gutters. Cleaning out gutters will help prevent water from spilling over and accumulating near the foundation, which can cause damage.

Power of the People

*By W. Marc Farmer, General Manager,
West Oregon Electric Cooperative*



Heroes at West Oregon Electric Co-op

The term "Hero" derives from the original Latin servare "to save, deliver, preserve, protect." Under this definition, three of the WOEC Linemen certainly qualify as "Heroes" to Kim Oblack-Morrison.

On their way back to the Co-op after working on an after-hours outage, Ryan Delemos, Jamie Mullins, and Terry Pike were traveling down Hwy 47 between Big Eddy Park and Scappoose Junction about 9:00 p.m. when Terry noticed tailights off the road. The three Linemen stopped their trucks and went back to investigate. A single vehicle had gone off the road and was on its side down the embankment. Being the first ones on the scene, the lessons learned from their numerous Safety, CPR, and rescue trainings paid off as they immediately assessed the situation. Two of the Linemen, Ryan and Terry, went to work and established communications with the driver, who was pinned in the car, to determine her condition. Jamie made radio contact with PGE Repair via the radio as there was no cell service in the area. He apprised PGE Repair of the situation and had them make a call to 9-1-1 for paramedics.

Terry and Ryan soon realized that Kim was seriously injured and would need medical attention as soon as possible. From their training, they knew not to move her despite her repeatedly asking them to remove her from the vehicle. While they took turns keeping her comfortable

and stabilized, they also took measures to secure the vehicle so it would not roll over again causing even further injuries. They remained with her as volunteers and help arrived. The jaws of life delivered to the site were not sufficient for the task, so the WOEC Linemen supplied a Pulkaski that was used to remove the windshield and enable rescuers to extricate her from the vehicle. Life Flight was able to land close by, but incoming fog made it unsafe for them to take off. Paramedics transported Kim to the hospital by ambulance.

Before the EMS crew arrived, a couple of hunters came to the scene and wanted to remove Kim from the vehicle, but the Linemen refused, knowing from their training that this was not a safe or wise thing to do.

In a thank you note to the WOEC Linemen, Kim thanked them for, "making the critical decisions and cautious approach taken," as she had a broken neck and if she had been moved wrong, "could have had a devastating outcome." She was grateful that they stayed with her until the paramedics arrived, for being caring and great citizens, and said she truly appreciated all they did to ensure her safety. Kim is recovering well, thanks to the quick response, careful actions, and caring attitudes of these "Heroes."

The West Oregon Electric Co-op Board of Directors unanimously voted to recognize Ryan Delemos, Jamie Mullins, and Terry Pike with a special commendation for their swift and heroic efforts on behalf of one of our citizens and members. We are very proud of them and the professional manner in which they handled the situation. They are not only excellent employees, but are also excellent men and fellow citizens. Thank you gentlemen!

See picture on page 1.

**Discount
Autobody**

Hey it held together for over a week. You can't beat that for the price!

I should have taken it to Meyer's Auto Body



Meyer's Auto Body, Inc

503-429-0248

493 Bridge St, Vernonia, OR

These tips were provided by State Farm Insurance.