Test Your Emergency Preparedness IQ

Will you be ready if disaster strikes?

If a disaster strikes in our community, tap water may not be safe to drink or use. It is important to prepare for possible emergency situations ahead of time by preparing an emergency water supply for yourself and your family.

In emergency situations, use bottled water if possible; bottled water is the safest choice for drinking and all other uses. If bottled water is not available, it is essential to know how to make contaminated water safe to drink and how to find alternate sources of water.

Test your knowledge about water use and safety in an emergency:

(1) In a disaster, alternative sources of clean water can be found inside the home. Can you name three sources?
   - Melted ice cubes.
   - Liquid from canned fruit and vegetables.
   - Water from your home’s water heater tank.

(2) In a disaster, alternative sources of water can be found outside the home. Can you name three sources?
   - Rainwater
   - Streams, rivers, and other moving bodies of water
   - Ponds and lakes
   - Natural springs

(3) In a disaster, if you don’t have safe bottled water, you should do what to water make it safe?
   A. Add chlorine
   B. Add iodine
   C. Boil it

   Answer: C. Boiling is the surest method to make water safer to drink by killing disease-causing organisms, including viruses, bacteria, and parasites. Iodine and chlorine can kill most harmful organisms, such as viruses and bacteria, but are not as effective in controlling more resistant organisms such as the parasites cryptosporidium and giardia.

   IMPORTANT: Water contaminated with fuel or toxic chemicals will not be made safe by boiling or disinfection.

(4) The minimum amount of water each individual needs per day for sanitation and drinking is?
   A. 1 gallon
   B. 5 gallons
   C. 16 ounces

   Answer: A. Store at least one gallon of water per day for each person and each pet. You should consider storing more water than this for hot climates, for pregnant women, and for persons who are sick. Store at least a three-day supply of water for each person and each pet (try to store a two-week supply if possible).

(5) If the water you’ve stored for an emergency hasn’t been commercially bottled, how often should it be replaced?
   A. Every 3 months
   B. Every 6 months
   C. Once a year
   D. Not until it starts to turn green

   Answer: B. Every 6 months

Source: Center for Disease Control & Prevention
Say ‘goodbye’ to stamps, Say ‘hello’ to paperless!

Online bill payment can simplify your life. Easily create an account. View and pay your water bills anytime on any device.

Using Skagit PUD’s customer account portal, you can link and pay multiple accounts, view your billing history, and set up automatic payments.

The program provides a more convenient payment option and helps customers avoid late fees by offering 24/7 access to view their account information and/or pay their bill.

Sign up for paperless billing

Skagit PUD now offers paperless billing, too. It’s fast, secure and convenient. Paperless billing is an easy way to receive your statement and it clears the clutter of paper bills. You’ll receive an email alert when your statement arrives.

Why go paperless?

Fast: Skagit PUD emails you as soon as your statement is posted.
Secure: Access 32 months of billing history in your protected online account. No need to file or shred paper bills.
Easy: Enroll for free today at SkagitPUD.org.

Login to your account and select “Yes” under the Paperless option to begin receiving paperless statements.

Ignoring Drips and Leaks Can Cost You Money

Have you identified a leak in your plumbing system? Sometimes a leak can be identified by the sound of running water or by a constant damp area; however, sometimes the only way to become aware of it is to notice an increase in the water usage that could sharply increase your water bill.

The vast majority of high bills are due to hidden or ignored water leaks. In the case of some significant leaks, once the leak is repaired, you may qualify for a leak adjustment. To be eligible for an adjustment, you must make timely repairs and meet certain criteria, such as:

- You haven’t received a prior leak adjustment at your service address within a 12-month period.
- The leak that caused the high consumption has been repaired.
- Have proof of repairs; such as receipts for labor, parts, or equipment.

For more information, please call Customer Service at (360) 424-7104.

### A continuous leak from a hole this size would, over a three month period, waste water in the amount shown below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Diameter</th>
<th>Gallons</th>
<th>Daily Average</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1/4”</td>
<td>1,181,000</td>
<td>13,122</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3/16”</td>
<td>652,000</td>
<td>7,244</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1/8”</td>
<td>296,000</td>
<td>3,288</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1/16”</td>
<td>74,000</td>
<td>822</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Left: Leaks in your system can cause property damage, waste thousands of gallons of water, and cost you money.