

VADER-ENCHANTED VALLEY WATER SYSTEM NEWSLETTER



Lewis County Public Works, 2025 NE Kresky Ave, Chehalis, WA 98532

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Office Hours: 8:30 AM - 4 PM, Monday - Friday

Web address: www.lewiscountywa.gov or call 1-855-858-2843

WATER CONSERVATION DURING EMERGENCIES

The return to Standard Daylight Time heralds in the change of seasons and reminds us to plan for winter emergencies. In particular, power outages. Fortunately, our local power utility is very responsive so power outages tend to be very temporary. But what to do when it is a long outage? It is cost prohibitive for the Utility to buy and use a backup generator to use during power outages so we ask our customers to conserve and use water wisely during outages. Some tips are provided to help you plan.

1. Pay attention to storm warnings.
2. Have an emergency water supply.
3. Sign up for Code Red to get Lewis County notifications.

Buy locally—it is good for the local economy and it saves energy because products have not travelled across the world.

EMERGENCY WATER SUPPLY

The best source of drinking water during an emergency is water you have stored with your emergency supplies.

1. Store one gallon of water per person per day. Store enough for three days.
2. Store-bought, factory-sealed bottled water is best. Check the expiration date and replace as needed.
3. If you choose to fill your own water containers:
 - Collect the water from a safe supply.
 - Store water in thoroughly washed containers such as soda bottles, or food-grade plastic containers.
 - Seal containers tightly, label with date, and store in a cool, dark place.
 - Replace water every six months.

NEVER use a container that held toxic substances such as pesticides, chemicals or oil.

For more information, go to www.ready.gov/water.

Minimizing Cross-Connections

As part of the Utility's cross connection control program, we need our customers to complete the water use questionnaire that will be mailed in December 2013 with your water bill. A cross connection is a point in a plumbing system where the potable water supply is connected to a non-potable water source. Cross connections are found in all plumbing systems and generally, the hazard is minimal because the household plumbing was permitted and installed in compliance with the Uniform Plumbing Code. However, some uses require a backflow preventer or alternate protection to prevent contamination of the public water system.

The Utility spends a lot of money to produce quality potable water before it enters the distribution system, and we want to keep your drinking water safe. Lewis County appreciates your cooperation to help us protect our drinking water.

CODE RED

Register your telephone number and email at <http://lewiscountywa.gov/911-code-red>. If you do not have Internet access, then call 360-740-3394 to register.

PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE

Although the initial water main replacement project is completed the system still needs improvements identified in the adopted Vader Water System Plan (WSP). The WSP outlines a long-term planning strategy for the water system including capital improvement projects and utility programs. The 2008 WSP needs to be updated and Lewis County will be working on the update next year. However, there are some capital improvement projects that are still needed such as a new reservoir and water main replacements. As part of the application, Lewis County has to provide current estimates of the incomes of the residents in the Vader-Enchanted Valley water service area.

We plan to conduct a survey in 2014 to ask about household size and total income during 2013. All responses will be confidential and used only for the purposes of the water utility.