

Manager's Column

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FIRE WATER

The mission of the Nipomo Community Services District is to provide its customers with reliable, quality, and cost-effective services now and in the future.

Back in the days before community water systems existed, it was not uncommon for a town to be destroyed or nearly destroyed by fire. Firefighters were often limited by the amount of water that could be conveyed to the fire. At eight pounds per gallon, water is heavy and transferring large amounts of water by truck or 'bucket brigade' seriously impeded firefighter response.

The desire to have large quantities of water available throughout a community for fire suppression was one of the main drivers for the earliest community water system. A pressurized network of pipes that could deliver water to fire hydrants greatly improved the ability of firefighters to limit the spread of a fire in densely populated urban areas. Towns invested heavily in water systems to ensure their investment in private and public infrastructure would be protected.

If you are a customer of Nipomo CSD, chances are there is a fire hydrant within 200 yards of your property. The District maintains over 650 fire hydrants distributed along 85 miles of water pipeline. Hydrants receive regular maintenance to insure they are in proper working order. Each hydrant is backed by 3.2 million gallons of water in storage. Additionally, District wells have a combined production capability of 4,000 gallons per minute.

There is no substitute for safety and fire prevention, however, should a fire get started in our community, our Cal Fire firefighters will have plenty of their number one firefighting tool (water) available to them at all times of the day and night should it be needed.

CONSERVATION NOTE:

District water costs only about 1 penny for 3 gallons. However, a well-managed lawn can easily require hundreds of thousands of gallons of water each summer to maintain its dark green vibrancy. So even at less than a penny per gallon, the cost of watering large lawn areas can be hundreds of dollars each year. Consider native/drought tolerant landscapes. Our local native garden, Nipomo Native Garden at the corner of Pomeroy and Camino Caballo, is a living example of how beautiful a drought tolerant landscape can be. Fall is an excellent time to plant a native garden.

Don't forget: Daylight Savings Time ends at 2AM on Sunday November 3 – remember to set your clocks back and [check the batteries in your Smoke Alarm and Sprinkler Control Clock](#)

Until next time...

Michael S. LeBrun, General Manager, info@ncsd.ca.gov