

# City of Motley Newsletter

Winter 2017

December 21, 2017

We have continued to update the City website ([www.cityofmotley.com](http://www.cityofmotley.com)); please be sure to utilize it for updates and important community info.

## Important Dates

<b>December 25<sup>th</sup></b>	City Hall CLOSED in observance of Christmas Day
<b>January 1<sup>st</sup></b>	City Hall CLOSED in observance of New Year's Day
<b>January 8<sup>th</sup></b>	First City Council meeting of 2018
<b>January 15<sup>th</sup></b>	City Hall CLOSED in observance of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
<b>February 19<sup>th</sup></b>	City Hall CLOSED in observance of Presidents' Day

## Notes from the Police Department

Please remember that all pets need to be contained in a fenced-in area or on a leash. If you are going to walk your pet, please make sure they are on a leash. An additional reminder that all dogs and cats are required to be licensed annually. The license fee is \$5 per year, and the fine for an unlicensed pet is \$100. License applications are available online and at City Hall. Licensing your pet is not only required by City Ordinance, but it will help us return your pet back to you safely and avoid impound fees should they get away from you.

**Please remember to drive with your headlights on during inclement weather!!!**

Please note: If you call the police department's regular number and we do not answer, Morrison County dispatch will pick up the phone after the fourth ring and will contact us by radio to respond to your call.

The Motley Police Department would like to wish everyone a wonderful holiday season!

## Notes from the Public Works Department

There are several residences where carts are being left out in the street for most of the year. Please note that City Ordinance indicates carts are supposed to be placed for pickup **no earlier than 6:00 p.m.** of the afternoon preceding the collection day, and **no later than 6:00 a.m.** on collection day to ensure your pickup is not missed. Please remove carts after collection on the same day unless otherwise directed by City Hall. Carts should be removed from curbside during all other times. This is especially important now that the plows are out!

If you believe your garbage or recycling pickup was missed, please call City Hall to report it as soon as possible.

## Cross Connections

**The Minnesota Department of Health has been stepping up efforts to educate water operators, property owners, and citizens about problems associated with backflow and we want to pass along this info to our residents.**

Backflow, or back-siphonage, occurs when the pressure of a polluted source exceeds that of the potable water. It can result in contaminants, including hazardous chemicals and bacteria, mixing with potable water.

Cross connections—an actual or potential connection between a potable and non-potable water supply—are sources of backflow problems. The Minnesota Department of Health has been identifying hazardous cross connections within public water supply distribution systems and designating them as significant deficiencies. Hazardous cross connections are defined as situations in which potential contaminants could cause waterborne disease or illness and in which there is a possibility of the contaminants entering the drinking water supply. Public water suppliers with hazardous cross connections will be required to remove or correct them.

Backflow and cross connections are a concern among commercial and residential property owners, as well. **A garden hose can often be a cross connection.** Someone spraying a commercial weed killer using a cross connection could have some of the weed killer sucked back into the hose, especially if there is a drop in the water pressure while the herbicide is attached. In this case, the person could be poisoned by taking a drink from the hose after disconnecting the weed killer.

In commercial buildings, back-siphonage of chemicals could cause contaminants to enter the building's distribution-system water mains. Backflow of boiler corrosion control chemicals into an office building's water supply is also possible. In addition to public water systems, property owners are advised to develop a cross-connection control and backflow prevention program. These programs can prevent the costs of responding to contamination situations.

In residential or commercial buildings hose and/or spray device use, atmospheric vacuum breakers (AVB) can provide excellent, inexpensive protection against back-siphonage (but not backpressure). The potable water supply is protected as long as sufficient water pressure maintained (and no pressurization is added to the end of the hose or other attachment). AVBs are generally available in ½ to 3 inch sizes. Consumers should note that AVBs must be installed vertically, at least 6 inches higher than the final outlet (or flood-level rim of a vessel), and must not have any shutoffs downstream.

Hose bibb vacuum breakers are a common, specialized variety of AVB normally attached to sill cocks in order to protect potable water flowing through garden hoses, slop sink hoses, or spray outlets. If freezing is a concern, the consumer should look for drainable models. Some models also are designed to be tamper-proof.

The Minnesota Department of Health and American Water Works Association recommend the following precautions:

- Do not submerge hoses in buckets, pools, tubs, or sinks.
- Keep the end of the hose clear of possible contaminants.

- Do not use spray attachments without a backflow prevention device, and attach these devices to all threaded faucets around the home. Such devices are inexpensive and available at hardware stores.
- If a plumber is used to install backflow prevention devices, make sure the plumber is licensed to ensure that local codes and manufacturer's recommendations are met.
- Commercial property owners should develop a plan for flushing or cleaning the water system to minimize the risk of drawing contaminants into uncontaminated areas.
- Maintain air gaps (vertical separations between an outlet and the flood-level rim of a vessel of at least twice the diameter of the water supply outlet and at least one inch) between hose outlets and any liquids.

In addition, the Department of Labor and Industry (DoLI) has adopted a new Minnesota Plumbing Code which went into effect January 23, 2016. **As a result of the revised plumbing code, all testable backflow devices installed on or after this date, which includes RPZs, pressure type vacuum breakers, spill-proof vacuum breakers, and double check valve assemblies, must be tested and inspected annually. Also, notifications of the installation and testing of these backflow devices need to be provided to the community public water system purveyor.** It isn't the responsibility of the purveyor to ensure compliance with the reporting requirement, but the requirement does support an effective cross-connection control program. **Please notify us of the installation and testing results of these backflow devices at 218-352-6649.**

**If you have any questions or concerns about cross connections, please contact Bruce Brotherton at 218-352-6649 or the MN Department of Health.**

### Notes from the Clerk-Treasurer's Office

We now accept debit and credit cards. You can pay with your card at City Hall, online, or over the phone. Please note that there is no direct cost to the City for this service, but there is a user convenience fee associated with use that depends on the dollar amount of your payment. All fees will be disclosed prior to completing your transaction and a copy of the fee structure is available at City Hall or online.

Reminder that City Hall **does not** hold checks. Once a payment is submitted/received, it will be deposited the same day.

If you require a seasonal water shut off, there is a form available at City Hall or online that **must** be completed prior to shut off. Your service will then be shut off on the requested date and you will not accumulate water or sewer charges until you request the service be restored. There is a \$20 reconnect fee that will be charged at that time. Please note that you will continue to be charged for garbage and recycling regardless.

The City Council voted to approve some additions to the fee schedule for 2018. The most noticeable addition is a \$0.50 *per month* administrative fee that will be added to each account (i.e. each address with a City account) to help recover mailing, preparation and printing costs of City bills. The other changes that may affect residents are as follows:

<b>Service</b>	<b>Fee</b>
Notice of potential certification of overdue utility account to County	\$ 5.00
Actual certification of unpaid utility bill to County	\$15.00
Door hanger/water shutoff notice	\$15.00
Second notice of ordinance violation	\$ 5.00
Monthly administrative fee for each City service address	\$ 0.50

All 2018 fee schedule changes are available online or at City Hall.

If you have any questions, comments or concerns, please contact City Hall directly at 218-352-6200 and/or attend an upcoming City Council meeting. If you would like to place an item on the Agenda to be heard by the Council, please fill out an agenda request form (available at City Hall or online) and return it to City Hall by the Wednesday preceding the meeting.

**Current City Hall Hours:** Monday/Wednesday/Friday 8:00am to 4:00pm; Tuesday/Thursday 9:00am to 5:00pm

### **Notes from the Fire Department**

**With Minnesota winter in full-swing, we want to remind everyone of a few fire hazards that are more present this time of year. Please read thoroughly, follow the advice, and have a safe and warm winter!**

Although furnaces are a great way to heat our homes, there are some precautions that we should take to safely operate our furnaces and avoid problems in the long run. Start the year off right with the following furnace safety tips:

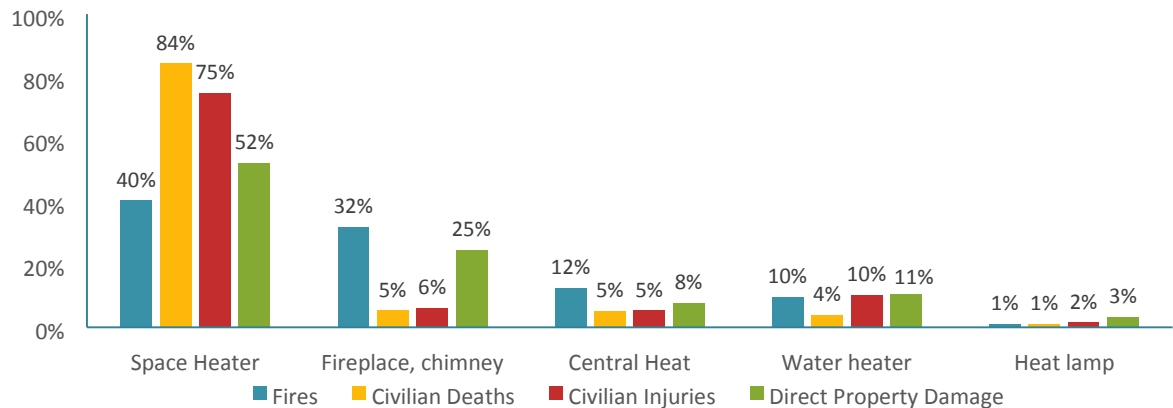
- **1. CHANGE YOUR AIR FILTER-** It is important to change your furnace filter regularly. A clean air filter will help your furnace burn more efficiently and will help keep dust from being circulated through your home. A dirty filter can cause a number of efficiency, performance and safety issues, as well as result in furnace failure. Change or clean your air filter every 1-3 months during the winter when the furnace is being used the most.
- **2. ANNUAL FURNACE CHECK-UP-** Have your furnace cleaned and checked every year by a professional. An annual furnace check-up is essential to make sure that the system is working well and operating efficiently. During the inspection, your furnace will be checked for problems such as carbon monoxide leaks or frayed electrical wires that could lead to safety hazards in your home.
- **3. KEEP THE AREA AROUND YOUR FURNACE CLEAR-** In order to minimize the chance of a fire, it would be smart to keep the area around your furnace clear. Flammable products such as papers, sawdust, old rags and wood scraps should be kept a safe distance away from the furnace. Liquids such as gasoline and kerosene should be stored in tightly sealed containers, since vapors from flammable liquids easily ignite.

- **4. TEST YOUR CARBON MONOXIDE AND SMOKE DETECTORS-** If your furnace isn't functioning properly, one of the biggest threats that it can impose to your home is a carbon monoxide leak. Carbon monoxide is a type of gas that is colorless and odorless, so there is no way to detect high levels of it on your own. A carbon monoxide leak can cause us to have flu-like symptoms, disorientation, confusion and even death. It is imperative to check that all of your home's carbon monoxide and smoke detectors are working properly.

*Heating equipment is a leading cause of fires in U.S. homes. The homes included in this report are one- and two-family homes (including manufactured homes) and apartments (including townhouses and other multi-family dwellings).*

- Heating equipment fires accounted for 16% of all reported home fires in 2009-2013 (second behind cooking) and 19% of home fire deaths (second behind smoking materials).
- Space heaters are the type of heating equipment most often involved in home heating fires, figuring in two of every five of these fires and accounting for 84% of associated civilian deaths, 75% of civilian injuries, and 52% of direct property damage.
- The leading factor contributing to ignition for home heating fire deaths (56%) was heating equipment too close to things that can burn, such as upholstered furniture, clothing, mattress, or bedding.
- The leading factor contributing to home heating fires (30%) was failure to clean, principally from solid-fueled heating equipment, primarily chimneys.

**Home Structure Fires Involving Heating Equipment by Type of Equipment, 2009-2013 Annual Averages**



**FROM ALL OF US AT CITY HALL, HAVE A SAFE AND WONDERFUL HOLIDAY SEASON! WE'RE LOOKING FORWARD TO 2018!**