



City of Phoenix Seeks Volunteers for Metering Outdoor Water Use

Anthem West Residents Asked to Participate

The City of Phoenix Water Services Department is conducting a residential outdoor submeter pilot-program to learn more about outdoor water use at single family homes. The city is asking residents in the Anthem West area to participate in the program by agreeing to install a submeter at their home that will measure outdoor water use, such as landscape watering and pool filling, separately from indoor water use. Currently, most homes are equipped with only one water meter that measures both indoor “domestic” water use and outdoor water uses. The programs’ submeters would be installed and monitored for at least three years.

Current estimates of outdoor household water use range from 45% to 65% of all single family residential consumption, which comprises more than half of city-wide water demand. Understanding and monitoring trends in outdoor water use aids long-range water demand forecasting activities and provides benefit for many of the department’s objectives. Quantifying outdoor demand of typical new homes helps ensure optimal sizing of water and wastewater infrastructure required to serve new subdivisions. Infrastructure sizing can have important implications for facility construction cost, maintenance requirements and water quality management.

Participation in the pilot program is free and will not be used for billing purposes or impact a resident’s current water account or any other function associated with the primary water meter. Data from the submeters will be collected remotely using hand-held meter reading devices, so there will be no disturbances to access the property after the submeter is installed. Measurements recorded by the submeter will be combined with data obtained from other participants submeters for statistical purposes only.

If you are interested in participating in this pilot program, please contact Adam Miller, Planner, City of Phoenix Water Services Department, at 602-262-4575.

Smoke Alarms

Provided by: Dave Wilson, PIO, DMFD

In recent months the Daisy Mountain Fire Department (DMFD) has noticed an increase in responses to fire alarm activations. Fortunately, most often these incidents are a result of a faulty smoke detector, usually concluding with crews assisting with battery changes and a lesson on how and when to check your detectors as well as sharing some maintenance tips.

Smoke alarms should be tested at least once a month. All smoke alarms have a test button that you push to check out the entire alarm, including its sensitivity. If the testing mechanism does not work properly, the alarm should be replaced immediately. Never use open flame devices to test an alarm.

Smoke alarms need little maintenance other than changing batteries and an occasional vacuuming of dust or cobwebs. Dust and insects can cause your smoke detector to malfunction. DMFD recommends that batteries be changed



annually. When the battery needs changing, the smoke alarm will begin to “chirp” every 20 seconds or so; this will persist for a month. This is most likely to start in the middle of the night (when the temperature in the house drops).

Smoke alarms have a useful life of about ten years. Many of the homes in the Daisy Mountain Fire District are approaching or have surpassed the ten year mark. At that age, alarms should be replaced, even if they seem to be working. This will assure that the alarm will be working when you need it.

Remember to always trust the smoke alarm. If your smoke alarm is activated, get out of the house and call 911 immediately. Delaying the notification process to the fire department could result in cata-

strophic loss of life or property.

For more information on smoke detectors, please visit www.usfa.dhs.gov.