



Mountain Water Company

Newsletter
November, 2006

Providing quality
water and dependable
service to the
Missoula Community
at a reasonable price

27 Years in Business

Contact Us:

Phone: 406-721-5570

or (1-800-721-5570)

Phone Hours: 8-5M-F

Location: 1345 West
Broadway

Walk-In Office

Hours: 7:30-5:30 M-F

**Closed: Weekends &
Holidays**

24-Hour Emergencies:

721-5570

Dispatch: 523-5061

Website:

www.mtnwater.com



On September 14, 2006, Mountain Water Company celebrated its 27th anniversary of providing drinking water, irrigation and fire protection to the Missoula Community.

It all began back in the 1860's when the first water system was started by a Native American named "One-Eyed Riley" and his friend who hauled water out of Rattlesnake Creek in a donkey cart. Log pipes and wooden mains were introduced in 1871 and the Rattlesnake Intake Dam was built with a settling basin capacity of 3 million gallons in 1901. Missoula's water needs were met by the Rattlesnake Creek and eight lakes until 1935, when five wells were added to augment fall and summer demands.

The watershed was used until 1983, when a Giardia problem arose and its use was discontinued. It is still maintained as an emergency backup water supply. It is also being studied for reintroduction as a potable water supply through treatment.

When Mountain Water Company began operating the system on this date in 1979, thirteen employees transferred over from Montana Power Company, who previously owned the system. Today, we are fortunate to have five of those employees still working for us. We would like to give a special "thank you" to Arvid Hiller, Gary Frey, Louie McConaughy, Brad Hafar and Gary Mitchell for their long association and contributions over the years.

**Mountain Water Company currently has 46 employees
and 618 combined years of service.
Congratulations!**

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One-Eyed Riley and his
friend in the 1860's

Do you know how often you turn me on?

If only the water faucet could talk to us. It might remind us how often we turn to it for safe water to drink, to wash our clothes, to prepare our food, to provide us with the everyday quality of life we enjoy. It might remind us that the water pipes below our streets make so many everyday conveniences possible.

Our water bills pay to keep our community tap water safe, reliable and there for us - 24/7 without fail. For more information about what your tap water delivers, visit www.mtnwater.com


Only Tap Water
DeliversSM



Presented in cooperation with

 American Water Works Association



Cold Weather Precautions

With winter around the corner, don't get caught unprepared. Here are some tips for preventing your water meter and pipes from freezing:

- Insulate pipes that are vulnerable to cold weather, including those in crawl spaces. Wrap them with inexpensive foam insulation that can be found at your local hardware store.
- Make sure basement doors and windows close and seal tightly to eliminate drafts.
- Protect your indoor meter with insulation if it's in an unheated area. If you have a meter pit outdoors, be sure the lid is sealed tightly.
- Make sure you and your family members know where the shut-off valves are in case of an emergency, and that they're working and can be turned off if a frozen pipe bursts.
- If you're planning to be away for an extended period, either keep the heat on to protect the pipes or drain the water from the water heater, pipes and toilet and turn the heat off. Be sure and turn off the power to the water heater or if you have a gas water heater, turn it to pilot.
- Be sure to remove your hose from the outside faucet so your piping can drain to prevent frozen pipes.

Power Tracker affecting Water Rates

A certain fraction of the water bill you pay each month is for electric power costs. Through a PSC-approved tariff, we are allowed to make a rate adjustment each year based on forecast changes in power costs. We use approximately \$1,200,000 in electricity per year, mainly for pumping water from our wells. Our current water rates are based on electric costs effective in July 2004. New water rates, effective October 1, are based on current and forecast costs for electricity through next September. The overall water rate increase will average 3%. Please call us at 721-5570 if you have additional questions.

Bottled Water Facts

There are approximately 700 brands of bottled water sold in the United States. Considered a food product, bottled water is regulated by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration. Tap water is regulated by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. The Safe Drinking Water Act requires that the FDA establish regulations for bottled water equivalent to those for tap water. Here are some additional facts about bottled water:

- *50% of bottled water manufacturers get their water from the same source as municipal water departments.*
- *Bottled water costs about 1000 times more than tap water and most of that pays for product packaging and advertising.*
- *It is unlawful for bottled water companies to make health claims for their products.*
- *Bottled water labels must include the bottler's name, address and the source of water.*
- *Because bottled water is not required to be date stamped, its quality can deteriorate over time.*
- *Ask for a copy of the bottler's water quality test results and compare that to the EPA standard for drinking water.*