Keeping Safe Water Flowing

During the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, many of us have come to realize the importance of those on the front lines protecting our communities, ranging from healthcare workers and grocery store employees to the many police, fire and other emergency first-responders.

A team of frontline heroes often overlooked, however, are those dedicated to keeping safe water flowing — notably the team of certified operators at the Roxborough Water and Sanitation District. These seven people perform the critical jobs involved in water treatment and distribution, sustaining a reliable, safe supply of water round-the-clock, each and every day of the year.

RWSD has two operations groups. The Plant Operators keep the water treatment plant running smoothly and produce safe, great tasting water 24/7. The Field Techs operate and maintain the water distribution system that delivers water to your home and business and the wastewater collection system that safely collects wastewater for conveyance to the South Platte Renew Water Reclamation Facility. All of them are certified and play a pivotal and invaluable role as champions of public health and protecting the environment.

Cheers to the Unsung Water Heroes

Yes, some heroes are our operators. While they might not wear the traditional red cape, they are indeed the unseen heroes making sure Roxborough’s quality water is available when you need it. It does not matter if it is a holiday or if there is a pandemic, the team of seven people that work in the field or plant are always on-call, 24 hours a day, every day of the week. To us – they are superheroes. It’s why we invite you to join us by saying “thank you” by simply visiting our website and putting in your own comment of appreciation.

What We Do

The District operates and maintains a Water Treatment Plant, 4 Water Pump Stations, 6 Water Storage Tanks, 74 miles of Water Pipes, 549 Fire Hydrants, 1993 Water Valves, 2 Sewage Lift Stations, 63 Miles of Sewer Pipes and 1434 Manholes. On a scheduled basis, the water is tested for over 100 contaminants to help ensure quality water is delivered 24/7, every day of the year, at a faucet near you.
Avoid Costly Toilet Leaks
Toilets account for the largest number of indoor leaks. An undetected toilet leak could waste as much as 5-gallons of water per minute. To test for a leak, drop a little food coloring into the tank. Do not flush. Wait for about 15 minutes. If the food coloring appears in the toilet bowl, your toilet has a leak. It is probably located in or around the plunger ball or flapper valve at the bottom of the tank. These type leaks are easy to fix with parts from your hardware store. Learn more by visiting our website: RoxWater.org.

Keep the Water Temperature Comfortable
With the COVID-19 pandemic, health officials are reminding Americans to wash their hands often and for at least 20 second to help reduce the spread of the disease. Everyone knows that fact. What you might find surprising, however, is that the temperature of the water does not matter as to the effectiveness of the hand washing with regard to diseases.

In a 2005 report in the Journal of Occupational and Environmental Medicine, scientists concluded washing hands for 25 seconds using water with temperatures as high as 120 degrees Fahrenheit, revealed no bacterial reduction over using cold water. They concluded the temperature of water used for hand washing should not be guided by antibacterial effects but rather by comfort. Basically, keep washing your hands often with soap and whatever temperature of water you find most comfortable. And if you want to save water, turn the faucet off while you scrub.

Fall Watering Remains on Schedule
Remember, Roxborough’s annual watering schedule runs through October 1st. Designed for water-efficiency, it allows for automatic sprinklers 2-days per week on your designated days. If you are connected to RWSD’s water system for landscape irrigation, check out the chart below and remember to water lawns only on your permitted days and only between the hours of midnight to 11:00am or from 6:00pm to midnight. Watering on Mondays is by permit only. Hand watering and drip systems are always allowed.

Volunteers Confirm No Lead
While there is no lead in Roxborough’s water and the community was developed after lead pipes and service lines were banned, lead and copper can sometimes leach from brass fittings, solder, and other components of faucets and other fixtures. That’s why the EPA and state regulators require all public water systems to test for lead and copper test at the faucets of volunteer homes on a scheduled basis.

Here in Roxborough, we ask volunteers to gather samples from the faucets of 40 Roxborough homes which were selected based on their location and age. These samples can only be acquired with the help of volunteers. A big “Thank You!” to the volunteers continuing to make this program a success as they are helping to keep everyone’s water safe to drink.