

Main Lines @ MCBWSD



**MARCH
2016**

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Retirement Announcement

The end of an era has arrived, **Frank Glick** retired after four + decades of service to the Mt Crested Butte Water & Sanitation District. Frank was hired in February 1975 as a part-time operator for the District and became the District Manager in 1982. You can bet he has seen innumerable changes in his tenure from staff, board members, processes and technology. Frank's knowledge of the District and his quiet manner will be missed as we move forward. We couldn't have done it without you.

We all extend an enormous thank you and appreciation for your many years of service to the District.

Happy Retirement - Frank and Lina !

New Faces In The District

The District has a new face as District Manager, **Todd Fessenden**, joined us in January. Originally from California, Todd came to us from Eagle River Water and Sanitation District in Vail, CO. He has an extensive background in water and wastewater operations and management.

Please welcome Todd in his new endeavor and wish him many successful years with MCBWSD.

Also in January, **Derek Pitt**, joined the District as the newest member of the Wastewater team. Derek has lived in CB for 12 years with his wife and son and is expecting a new baby in April.

We wish Derek success in his new roll.

NO MORE GAS!!!

In March of 2016, the Water Treatment Plant in Mt. Crested Butte switched its primary source of disinfection from gaseous chlorine to a HTH tablet system, similar to bleach used in pools. Our main reason for this change was safety.

Chlorine gas is very dangerous to work with, and the hazards associated with chlorine gas are numerous. Chlorine gas is 2.5x heavier than air. It is extremely toxic and corrosive in moist atmospheres. Even in dry environments, small concentrations (3-5 parts per million) of chlorine gas is very irritating to mucous membranes and the lungs. In large concentrations (1,000 ppm) two breaths will kill you. Specific safety equipment, such as **Self Contained Breathing Apparatus** is required when working around chlorine gas systems. Specific safety procedures and protocols must be followed when working with chlorine gas. Chlorine has a high coefficient of expansion, one liter of liquid chlorine can evaporate and produce 450 liters of chlorine gas.

HTH tablets are much safer to work with. Hazards do exist with using tablet systems, but nothing close to those associated with chlorine gas. Inhalation of the dust when opening the 5 gallon bucket of tablets being the most common danger, and must be avoided. HTH tablet systems are much easier to make dosage adjustments than gaseous systems.

HTH tablet systems are more expensive to operate than chlorine gas systems. However, we feel the overall aspect of added safety of using a pellet system for our operators and the public outweigh this added expense.

Tim Seifert, Supervisor/ORC, Water Division

New Planning Guide

The Colorado Department of Local Affairs (DOLA) has released a new [Planning for Hazards: Land Use Solutions for Colorado](#) guide and website designed to help Colorado prepare for natural disasters and reduce risks. The guide covers 11 sections: Avalanche, Drought, Earthquake, Flood, Hazardous Material, Heat, Landslide, Rockfall, etc, Soil, Wildfire, Wind and Winter Storms. Check out this new guide at: www.planningforhazards.com



Main Lines



Lead in Flint Michigan's Drinking Water and Our Community's Drinking Water

Mt Crested Butte Water and Sanitation District (MCBWS D) is paying close attention to what unfolded in Flint, Michigan, and our thoughts are with all those who are struggling without access to safe and reliable water in their homes. In North America, no one should have to question the safety of drinking water. The issues in Flint underscore that our first job is to protect the families we serve. Those of us involved in managing, treating and delivering water share a common obligation to protect public health, and as State Health Department Certified Treatment Operators we take those roles very seriously. We do not have first-hand information about what occurred in Flint, but this much seems clear: When Flint switched its water supply source, it did not take the required steps to manage water chemistry. The new water source caused lead to leach from service lines and home plumbing – lead that ended up in water coming out of the taps.

Lead does not come from the treatment plants and water mains; it comes from lead service lines running between the water main in the street and the home, and from plumbing inside the home. In our community, we do not believe we have any lead service lines. The practice of installing lead service lines was discontinued prior to the establishment of this community. Lead based solders began being phased out in the early 80's and were banned completely in 1986 by the United States Environmental Protection Agency as an amendment to the Safe Drinking Water Act of 1974. MCBWS D performs lead and copper testing every three years in our service area and test results confirm that levels of lead in customer's homes are well within compliance.

If you are a property owner, there are steps you can take to address potential risks from lead in water. Lead service lines are typically only present in much older homes, but older brass faucets with lead content can be in newer homes. A certified plumber can tell you for sure if you have a lead service line, check for lead solders in your internal pipes and look for fixtures containing lead. There are other steps you can take to protect your family, including purchasing a certified water filter to remove lead, making sure you flush out the lines after a period of stagnation in order to get fresh water that is coming from the main, and avoiding consuming water from the hot water tap, where lead is more likely to be present. Identifying lead pipes should be left to professionals, however below is an example of the appearance of a lead service line vs. a copper line for reference:



MCBWS D's Rules and Regulations place ownership of service lines on customers. While we do not believe we have issues related to lead service lines, we do have concerns with existing galvanized service lines. These lines, even with proper fittings, degrade over time and plug up with rust. Many leaks on customer service lines over the years have been attributed to galvanized service lines.

Below is an example of the type of corrosion seen in galvanized pipe:

Galvanized service lines ultimately contribute zinc to the wastewater collections system and end up in our wastewater treatment plants. These plants are not designed to remove zinc, yet are regulated at stringent levels at the discharge point to the receiving stream. As an effort of continuous improvement, cost effective operations and to maintain the lowest possible metals levels at our permitted wastewater discharge points; MCBWS D is exploring various corrosion control practices to protect both the public drinking water system and customers internal plumbing.

Signs of galvanized service line corrosion include rusty water, particularly upon first turning on a faucet, visible external corrosion and reduced pressure over time. Often when a galvanized pipe is found leaking it is simply repaired and placed back in service, this simply defers the existing problem to a later date. We encourage all customers who believe they may have galvanized service lines to consult a qualified plumber regarding replacing these lines before they fail.



You can find more guidance on www.DrinkTap.org.