



WATER IN THE WORKS

AN ELBERT CREEK WATER COMPANY QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER
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ECWC Staff

Logan Hartle

Operator in Responsible Charge (ORC)
970-382-6751
lhartle@theglacierclub.com

Sean Young

Operations Manager
970-382-6750
syoun@theglacierclub.com

Anna Crona

ECWC Administrator
970-382-6787
acrona@theglacierclub.com

Find us at:

www.elbertcreekh2o.com
info@elbertcreekh2o.com
527 CR 200 in Durango, CO

A Message from ECWC

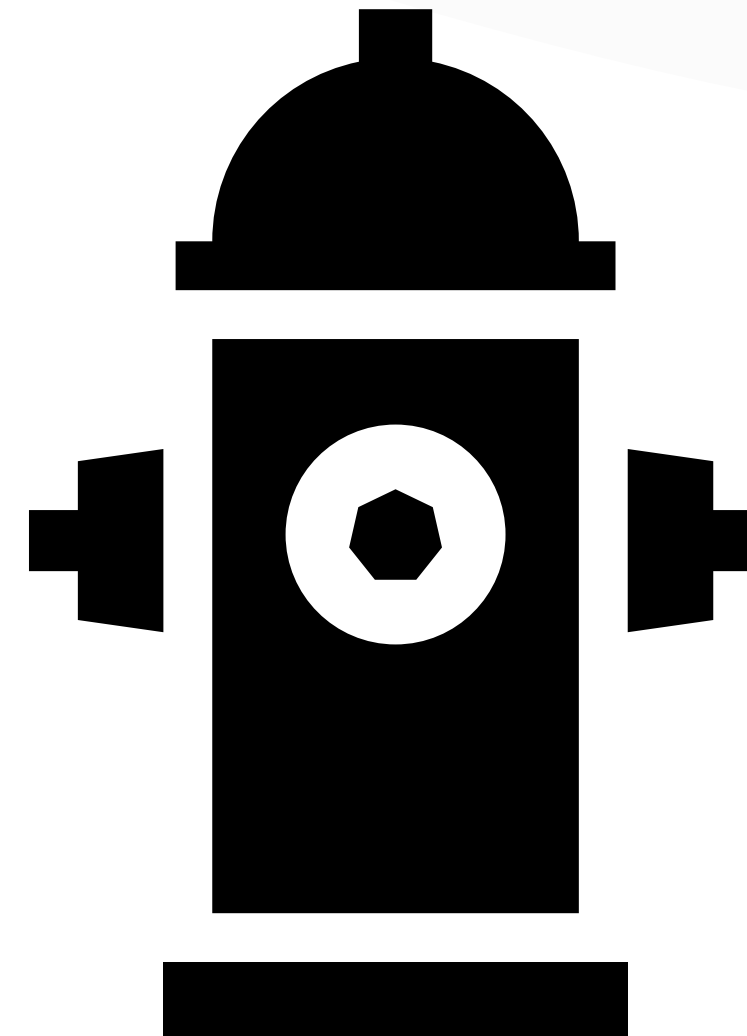
Hello, and welcome to the Fall 2022 edition of *Water in the Works*, a quarterly newsletter published by Elbert Creek Water Company (ECWC). The purpose of this newsletter is to improve communication between ECWC customers and staff while providing customers with useful and informative articles, ideas, and updates about our distribution area.

Water and Wastewater Rates for 2023

We are excited to announce that water and wastewater rates will remain unchanged for 2023. We will be engaging BBC Research and Consulting to perform a comprehensive annual rate study in 2023. To review our rates, please review Appendix A at the following link: <https://www.elbertcreekh2o.com/waterintheworksrr>. At the same link, you will also find ECWC's updated Rules and Regulations.

Information on ECWC's Fire Hydrant Flushing Program

Fire hydrants within the Elbert Creek Water Company's (ECWC) distribution system are in place so that the fire department can quickly access the pressurized water system and provide necessary flow rates for emergency fire suppression. ECWC staff performs inspections, flow tests, and necessary flushing to ensure that hydrants are in working condition, have sufficient fire flow rates, and are clear of any debris. ECWC provides inspection and flow test reports to the Durango Fire Protection District, so firefighters have accurate knowledge of where hydrants are located and the fire flow that is available. ECWC will be actively inspecting and testing hydrants over the next few months throughout the distribution system. Flow tests can sometimes cause discolored water due to high velocity flows picking up debris in the pipelines: if you experience discolored water in your tap, please run the cold water until the water becomes clear again. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact ECWC.



Did You Know? Consumer Confidence Reports (CCRs)



In 1975, Congress passed the Safe Drinking Water Act. In 1996, many amendments were made to the SDWA. One of the most significant changes made was the addition of the CCR requirement. The purpose of a CCR is to provide basic facts about water quality so that customers can be informed and make water consumption decisions based on their personal health. One could compare a CCR to the labels on food required by the FDA.

Reports are prepared annually and distributed to customers in several ways, depending on the size of the community served by the water company. CCRs are a great opportunity for communication between the water company and its customers. CCRs help educate customers, giving them a role in protecting source waters, as well as understanding the need for system maintenance and upgrades.

You can find Elbert Creek Water Company's CCRs on the Company's website by clicking the following link: <https://www.elbertcreekh2o.com/water-in-the-works-ccr>. The CCR for 2022 will be distributed to all customers in the spring of 2023.

Winter Weather Tips for Protecting and Conserving Water

From Partners for Clean Streams

Even though colder temperatures, snow, and ice have finally arrived this winter, you can still make a difference in our effort to protect and conserve water. Below are six tips on what you can do during the winter months.

- Drip your faucets during the winter months. Yes, we said it – use water to save water! As temperatures drop, leave your faucets on a slow drip while sleeping or not at home. This helps prevent your pipes from freezing or bursting, something that wastes a lot more water than a slow drip from a faucet. Hate to waste any water at all? Place a bucket underneath your faucet to collect the water and use it to water indoor plants or for pets.
- Is your dog a polluter? If you don't clean up after him, he is! Pet waste that is not properly disposed of washes into storm drains or nearby rivers and streams where it will raise bacteria and nutrient levels, just like human waste. If it builds up on snowy ground, the impact is more concentrated. Do your duty and clean up after your pets!
- Keep up with car maintenance to reduce leaking of oil, coolant, antifreeze and other hazardous fluids. These can leak fluids onto pavement, which ends up in streams and rivers directly, even on icy roads. A single pint of oil can cause a slick the size of a football field.

- Salt used to melt ice runs off into our storm sewers and eventually our waterways, where it can damage freshwater ecosystems. Consider alternatives, such as calcium magnesium acetate (CMA) or corn byproducts. If these alternatives are not available, less harmful salt-based products exist, such as potassium chloride, calcium chloride, and magnesium chloride. Sand also increases traction but does not melt the ice.

ALWAYS consider your own safety first!

- “No-shave November” is long gone, so back to shaving regularly! To save water while shaving, fill the sink with water instead of rinsing your razor under a running faucet.
- Recycle the water from pet bowls and fish tanks onto your indoor plants. This water has less chlorine and is often higher in nitrogen levels, both of which will help keep your plants alive until spring.

For more information on these and many other water conservation tips, check out our Give Water a Hand Campaign on our [website](#) or contact us at Admin@partnersforcleanstreams.org.

(Original article can be found at the following link:
<https://www.partnersforcleanstreams.org/reports/122-newsletter/2016/january/499-winter-weather-tips-for-protecting-conserving-water>)