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| Rawls Springs Utility District  May-June 2011  Volume 2, Issue 3 | | | C:\Documents and Settings\Myrtle\My Documents\My Pictures\Microsoft Clip Organizer\MC900297983[1].wmf | |
| ***Office Number: 601-268-2248***  ***Board of Directors***  *Diane Zachary – President*  *Allen Haralson*  *David Bowles*  *Jimmie Kirkham*  *Robbie Parish*  ***Office Manager***  *Linda Bray*  ***Maintenance***  *Luke Ellis*  *Allen West*  ***Operator***  *David Draughn*  ***Consultant***  *Carl Swann*  ◊◊◊◊◊◊  ***Rawls Springs Utility***  ***District is a member***  ***of the Mississippi Rural Water Association***  ◊◊◊◊◊◊  *Rawls Springs Utility District is dedicated to providing safe drinking water that meets or exceeds all of the State and Federal Government Standards. In addition, the system maintains a sewage system that disposes of wastes in an effective and efficient manner.* | Water Quality Report | | | |
| We are often reminded of the importance of pro-tecting our most precious resource – water. You may not even think about what it takes to purify and deliver that water to your home or business, but our number one priority is to provide a reliable, safe supply of drinking water to our customers. In 1996, the United States Environ-mental Protection Agency (USEPA) finalized a rule which requires water companies to annually produce a report that addresses the quality of the water they deliver. You may pick up a copy of the report in our office. This report is an important part of the 1996 Amendments to the Safe Drinking Water Act, which gives consumers | an opportunity to get involved. All the information provided is reported in accordance with the water quality standards established by the USEPA and the Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality. This Annual Water Quality Report provides detailed analytical testing results from water samples that are collected and tested regularly. The results shown are from January 1st to December 31st, 2010. It also provides information on the source of our water. In order to ensure that tap water meets all standards, USEPA sets regulations which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. The State | | and EPA require us to test our water on a regular basis to ensure standards are met. Drinking water may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. **It is important to remember that the presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk.** More information about contaminants in tap water and the potential health effects can be obtained by calling the EPA’s Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800) 426-4791. In addition, a list of contam-inants that may be present in water and possible health effects may also be picked up at our office. |
| Notice from the MDEQ | | | |
| The Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) is advising home owners to ensure that their renovators and painters are certified by the agency’s Lead-based Paint Program. This caution applies only to homes built before 1978, and if the restoration or remodel work disturbs old paint that contains lead. | “We want Mississippians to be aware of the effects of lead contaminated dust if it is disturbed. Renovation activities like sanding, cutting, and demolition can create hazardous lead dust and chips by disturbing lead-based paint. Lead-based paint was used in more than 38 million homes until it was banned for | | residential use in 1978,and research has shown that lead exposure can cause reduced IQ, learning disabilities, development delays and behavioral problems in young children,” says Maya Rao, Chief of MDEQ’s Air Division. Call 601-961-5171 for any questions. |
| Fun Facts To Know And Tell | | | |
| The word “hurricane” comes from the Spanish. The earliest reference to a method for capturing the energy of tides is in the Domesday Book, a chronicle of all British financial | holdings undertaken by William the Conqueror in 1806.  It was the Chinese who discovered the purifying effects of boiling water.  If everyone in the United | | States flushed the toilet just one less time each day, we could save a lake full of water about a mile long, a mile wide and four feet deep every day. |
| Abandoned Wells Hazardous | | | |
| According to Donnie Garris of Mississippi Rural Water Association, there are literally thousands of abandoned wells in Mississippi. These can affect the withdrawal and quality of water from an aquifer. In addition, open holes can pose a serious threat to groundwater quality and personal safety. These open holes allow | many contaminants to flow directly into the water supplies. Abandoned wells are often hidden by brush, grass or collapsed buildings. Some are wide enough that children, pets and animals can fall into them and become trapped. Some wells are obvious because they stick above the ground, above a concrete pad or still have the pump | | attached to them. Others may be below the ground, under buildings or beneath roadways, and they may never be found. If you know of an abandoned well or find one, please notify Rawls Springs Utility. Our customers are often a source of information. You can help protect the quality of our water. |
| It’s Hurricane Season Again | | | | |
| By now you have probably heard or read about the 2011 hurricane season. Forecasters are predicting 16 named storms, 9 hurricanes and 5 major hurricanes. While we can hope that this year’s season will be a repeat of the 2010 season, while very busy no hurricanes came ashore, it is in our best interest to be prepared. As we know in this area, hurricanes do come ashore and can cause horrible destruction. Rawls Springs Utility District’s two maintenance men attended a Hurricane Workshop sponsored by the Emergency Management District in order to be as prepared as possible to | continue to provide safe drinking water for our customers in case there is an emergency. We have generators that are kept in optimum working order in case there is a loss of electric power to our wells and pumps. In addition, we have access to generators from other areas and agencies in case more are needed. However, you will also need to take steps to be personally prepared in case of a hurricane. Some actions you will want to take are: develop a plan for you and your family at home, work or school. Pay attention to hurricane warnings. NOAA will issue a hurricane watch 36 hours | before a hurricane’s arrival to an area and a hurricane warning 24 hours before arrival. Sterilize stockpiled empty milk jugs and plastic soda bottles and fill with water and store in your freezer. If your home loses power, these ice blocks can be placed in your cooler. They will stay froze longer than bagged ice cubes and will also provide drinking water. Keep a supply of nonperishable food. Make sure you always have plenty of batteries on hand as well as alternate sources of light. If a hurricane does hit, limit telephone usage. Designate an out of town contact person to report your status, then allow other | | relatives and friends to get information from that person. Use text messaging instead of calls. Put an “ICE” (In Case of Emergency) number into your cell. During an emergency, phone lines and cell towers are often damaged and what communication system is available will be needed by emergency agencies and workers. For more information on how you can be better prepared for a hurricane or other weather related emergency you may contact the Mississippi Emergency Management Agency at 800-222-6362 or [www.msema.org](http://www.msema.org) |