FERN VALLEY WATER DISTRICT

Newsletter

NUMBER 64 JUNE 2020

CONSUMER CONFIDENCE REPORT

Monitoring Data & Test Results from Calendar Year 2019

A message from the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) and State Water Resources Control Board, (State Water Board): *In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the USEPA and the State Water Board prescribe regulations that limit the amounts of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. The State Water Board regulations also establish limits for contaminants in bottled water that provide the same protection for public health.*

While Fern Valley Water District works hard to ensure that our water is safe and pleasing for our customers, all drinking water, including bottled drinking water, may be reasonably expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. It's important to remember that the presence of these contaminants does not necessarily pose a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Safe Drinking Water Hotline 1-800-426-4791.

This yearly report describes where your water comes from, what is in it, and how its quality compares with the regulatory standards set by the State Water Board's Division of Drinking Water.

OUR PRECIOUS WATER SUPPLY is a function of the amount of precipitation that falls locally in the watershed. The District produced a total of 51.32 million gallons of water from our surface water and groundwater supplies. Under licenses issued by the California State Water Resources Control Board, 29.1 million gallons or approximately 57% of the water delivered to you last year was obtained from Tahquitz Creek; and 3.57 million gallons or approximately 7% was obtained from Strawberry Creek. These diversion sites are located at elevations high above Fern Valley. We filter this water through our surface water treatment plant. The filtered water then enters a granular activated carbon adsorption facility, further removing a wide variety of potential contaminants. Chlorine disinfectant is added to protect you against microbial contaminants. A Source Water Assessment of Fern Valley Water District's surface water supply was completed in 2012. A copy is available at the District office.

Groundwater supplies (Wells): When there is insufficient surface water supply, the District supplements your water supply from a combination of 10 vertical groundwater wells. Last year 18.65 million gallons or approximately 36% of the water delivered to you was from wells. This deep well water is obtained from fractured rock, not from a large underground aquifer. An assessment of the drinking water sources for FVWD was completed in December 2002. The sources are most vulnerable to the following activities not associated with any detected contaminants: low density septic systems, campgrounds/recreational areas, and surface water streams. A copy of the complete assessment is available at the District office. You may also request a summary of the assessment be sent to you by contacting Assistant General Manager, Jessica Priefer at (951) 659-2200.

The well water is aerated to remove carbon dioxide (CO_2), a corrosive gas naturally present in groundwater. The aeration process removes the CO_2, which in turn elevates the pH, producing water that is less corrosive to the District's water system and your household plumbing. This reduces the risk of lead and copper from leaching into the water from your plumbing. If present, elevated levels of lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and young children. Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and components associated with service lines and home plumbing. Fern Valley Water District is responsible for providing high quality drinking water, but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components. When your water has been sitting for several hours, you can minimize the potential for lead exposure by flushing your tap for 30 seconds to 2 minutes before using water for drinking or cooking. If you are concerned about lead in your water, you may wish to have your water tested. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline or at http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead

Contaminants that may be present in source water include:

- ***Microbial contaminants,*** such as viruses and bacteria, which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, and wildlife.
- ***Inorganic contaminants,*** such as salts and metals, that can be naturally-occurring or result from urban storm water runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining, or farming.
- ***Pesticides and herbicides,*** that may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban storm water runoff, and residential uses.
- ***Organic chemical contaminants,*** including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban storm water runoff, agricultural application, and septic systems.
- ***Radioactive contaminants,*** that can be naturally occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

Informational Statement

The sources of drinking water in both tap water and bottled water include rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs, and wells. As water travels over the surface of the land or through the ground, it dissolves naturally occurring minerals and, in some cases, radioactive material, and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity. Water industry professionals are dedicated to removing any materials that might prove harmful to customers. FVWD uses effective, multi-barrier treatment processes to ensure our water continues to meet state and federal standards.

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised persons such as persons with cancer that are undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, some elderly, and infants can be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. USEPA/Centers for Disease Control (CDC) guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by *Cryptosporidium* and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791).

The following are definitions and notations used in this report:

Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL): The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. Primary MCLs are set as close to the PHGs (or MCLGs) as is economically and technologically feasible. Secondary MCLs are set to protect the odor, taste, and appearance of drinking water.

Secondary Maximum Contaminant Level (SMCL): Non-enforceable guidelines regarding chemicals that may cause cosmetic or aesthetic effects in drinking water.

Primary Drinking Water Standards (PDWS): MCLs and MRDLs for contaminants that affect health, along with their monitoring and reporting requirements, and water treatment requirements.

Public Health Goal (PHG): The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. PHGs are set by the California Environmental Protection Agency (CAL EPA).

Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG): The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLGs are set by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA).

Regulatory Action Level (AL): The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.

Treatment Technique (TT): A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.

Maximum Residual Disinfection Level (MRDL): The highest level of a disinfectant allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants.

Maximum Residual Disinfection Level Goal (MRDLG): The level of drinking water disinfectant below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MRDLGs do not reflect the benefits of the use of disinfectants to control microbial contaminants.

LRAA: Locational Running Annual Average

N/A: Not applicable

None: The USEPA and CAL EPA, have not set a Public Health Goal or Maximum Contaminant Level for this substance.

(ND) Not detectable: At testing limit.

Nephelometric Turbidity Units (NTU): A measurement of the cloudiness of water.

Parts per million (ppm): Or milligrams per liter (mg/L).

Parts per billion (ppb): Or micrograms per liter (ug/L).

Picocuries per liter (pCi/L): A measure of radiation.

Locational Running Annual Average (LRAA): Disinfection Byproducts locational annual running average.

FERN VALLEY WATER DISTRICT

Monitoring Data & Test Results from Calendar Year 2019

All water produced and delivered by the Fern Valley Water District meets or exceeds standards for public drinking water established by the State Water Board and the USEPA.

In the following tables, you will find detailed information about the water that comes from your tap. Your water is regularly tested for more than 120 chemicals and other substances, as well as radioactivity. Only substances that were detected are listed in the tables. Unless otherwise noted, the data presented in the table is from testing done January 1 through December 31, 2019. The state allows us to monitor for certain contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants are not expected to vary significantly from year to year. Some of the data, though representative of the water quality, may be from more than one year of sample results.

If you have additional questions or concerns regarding the quality of your water, please contact Victor Jimenez, Fern Valley Water District General Manager at (951) 659-2200.

DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM

MICROBIOLOGICAL CONTAMINANTS

CONSTITUENT	MCL	MCLG	HIGHEST # OF DETECTIONS (in one month)	# MONTHS IN VIOLATION	TYPICAL SOURCES IN DRINKING WATER
TOTAL COLIFORM BACTERIA	1 Positive monthly sample	0	0	0	Naturally present in the environment
FECAL OR E.COLI BACTERIA	A routine sample & repeat sample are total coliform positive, and one of these is also fecal coliform or E.coli positive	0	0	0	Human and animal fecal waste

HOUSEHOLD LEAD AND COPPER TAP SAMPLING

CONSTITUENT	UNIT	AL	PHG (MCLG)	# SAMPLES COLLECTED	90TH PERCENTILE RESULT	# SAMPLES EXCEEDING AL	TYPICAL SOURCES IN DRINKING WATER
LEAD	UG/L	15	0.2	11	<5	0	Naturally-occurring
COPPER	MG/L	1.3	0.3	11	0.062	0	Naturally-occurring

DISINFECTION BY-PRODUCTS

DISINFECTION BYPRODUCTS	UNIT	MCL [MRDL]	MCLG [MRDLG]	DATE	RANGE	AVERAGE*	TYPICAL SOURCES IN DRINKING WATER
CHLORINE	MG/L	[4.0 (as Cl2)]	[4.0 (as Cl2)]	2019	0.3 - 1.5	0.9	Drinking water disinfectant added for treatment
TOTAL TRIHALOMETHANES (TTHM)	UG/L	80	N/A	2019	3.8 - 73	53	By-product of drinking water disinfection
HALOACETIC ACIDS (HAA5)	UG/L	60	N/A	2019	ND - 42	31.3	By-product of drinking water disinfection
*AVERAGE LISTED FOR TTHM AND HAA5 REPRESENT HIGHEST LRAA							

N/A – signifies that data was not applicable
ND – signifies that contaminant was not detected

Groundwater

PRIMARY							
CONSTITUENT	UNIT	MCL	PHG (MCLG)	DATE	RANGE	AVERAGE	TYPICAL SOURCES IN DRINKING WATER
BARIUM	UG/L	1000	2000	2018	0 - 34	17.2	Erosion of natural deposits
GROSS ALPHA	PCI/L	15	0	2015 - 2018	0 - 5.41	2.1	Erosion of natural deposits
SECONDARY							
CONSTITUENT	UNIT	SMCL	PHG (MCLG)	DATE	RANGE	AVERAGE	TYPICAL SOURCES IN DRINKING WATER
BICARBONATE ALKALINITY	MG/L	--------	N/A	2018	33 - 66	54.5	Naturally-occurring
CALCIUM	MG/L	--------	N/A	2018	6.1 - 14	11.4	Naturally-occurring
CHLORIDE	MG/L	500	N/A	2018	2 - 5.3	3	Runoff/ leaching from natural deposits
HARDNESS (TOTAL) AS CACO3	MG/L	--------	N/A	2018	19 - 44	35.3	Naturally-occurring
MAGNESIUM	MG/L	--------	N/A	2018	1 - 1.8	1.5	Naturally-occurring
PH, LABORATORY	UNITS	--------	N/A	2018	7 - 7.6	7.3	Measure of the acidity of the water
SODIUM	MG/L	--------	N/A	2018	8.1 - 14	10.9	Salt present in the water that is generally naturally-occurring
SPECIFIC CONDUCTANCE	US	1600	N/A	2018	88 - 130	116	Substances that form ions when in water
SULFATE	MG/L	500	N/A	2018	0 - 0.72	0.3	Runoff/ leaching from natural deposits
TOTAL DISSOLVED SOLIDS	MG/L	1000	N/A	2018	52 - 110	89	Runoff/ leaching from natural deposits
TURBIDITY, LABORATORY	NTU	5	N/A	2018	0 - 0.76	0.25	Soil runoff

SMCL = SECONDARY MAXIMUM CONTAMINANT LEVEL

Surface water

SECONDARY							
CONSTITUENT	UNIT	SMCL	PHG (MCLG)	DATE	RANGE	AVERAGE	TYPICAL SOURCES IN DRINKING WATER
BICARBONATE ALKALINITY	MG/L	--------	N/A	2019	24 - 26	25	Naturally-occurring
CALCIUM	MG/L	--------	N/A	2019	3.9 - 4.0	3.95	Naturally-occurring
CHLORIDE	MG/L	500	N/A	2019	1.8 - 2.0	1.9	Naturally-occurring
COLOR	UNITS	15	N/A	2019	5 - 15	10	Naturally-occurring organic materials
HARDNESS (TOTAL) AS CACO3	MG/L	--------	N/A	2019	12 - 13	12.5	Naturally-occurring
PH, LABORATORY	UNITS	--------	N/A	2019	7.4 - 7.5	7.45	Measure of the acidity of the water
SODIUM	MG/L	--------	N/A	2019	4.2 - 5.7	4.95	Salt present in the water that is generally naturally-occurring
SPECIFIC CONDUCTANCE	US	1600	N/A	2019	47 - 52	49.5	Substances that form ions when in water
SULFATE	MG/L	500	N/A	2019	0.6 - 0.94		Runoff/ leaching from natural deposits
TOTAL DISSOLVED SOLIDS	MG/L	1000	N/A	2019	46 - 58	0.77	Runoff/ leaching from natural deposits
TURBIDITY, LABORATORY	NTU	5	N/A	2019	0.14 - 0.26	0.2	Soil runoff

SMCL = SECONDARY MAXIMUM CONTAMINANT LEVEL

Sampling Results Showing Treatment of Surface Water Sources

Turbidity is a measure of the cloudiness of the water. We monitor it because it is a good indicator of the effectiveness of our surface water filtration system.	
Treatment Technique [a] Alternative Technology Filtration	EPD (Environmental Products Division) two stage pressure filter
Turbidity Performance Standards [b] (that must be met through the water treatment process)	Turbidity of the filtered water must: 1 – Be less than or equal to 0.2 NTU in 95% of measurements in a month. 2 – Not exceed 1.0 NTU for more than eight consecutive hours. 3 – Not exceed 5.0 NTU at any time.
Lowest monthly percentage of samples that met Turbidity Performance Standard No. 1.	100%
Highest single turbidity measurement during the year	0.17 NTU
Number of violations of any surface water treatment requirements	0

(a) A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.

(b) Turbidity (measured in NTU) is a measurement of the cloudiness of water and is a good indicator of water quality and filtration performance. Turbidity results which meet performance standards are considered to be in compliance with filtration requirements.

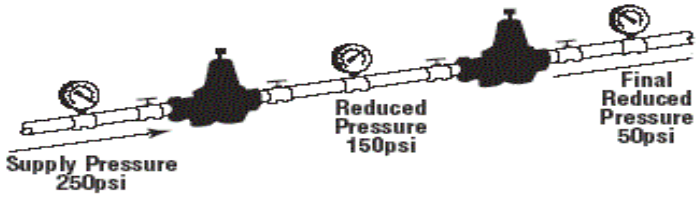
Did you know?

Due to the dynamics involved in supplying water to properties in mountain communities, pressure is very difficult to regulate from one property to the next. Pressure increases or decreases by a little less than half a pound of pressure for every foot of elevation change. This means a home that is at an elevation 50 feet higher than another home down the street being supplied by the same water pipeline, will experience a reduction in pressure of approximately 22 psi. Likewise a home that is 50 feet lower in elevation than another home up the street being supplied by the same water pipeline, will experience an increase in pressure of approximately 22 psi.

It is suggested that pressure regulators be inspected annually and rebuilt or replaced every 3-5 years. Water pressure can be tested at a hose bib with a pressure gauge that can be purchased at most hardware stores. The pressure in your residential plumbing should be regulated between 50 psi-70 psi and should never exceed 80 psi. Pressure over 80 psi could damage appliances, fixtures and plumbing, resulting in costly repairs and damage.

This configuration is recommended when reducing higher pressures such as those that we can experience in Fern Valley.

Two-Stage Serial Reduction Configuration



The two-stage serial reduction approach uses two valves in series to reduce or eliminate extreme variations between the water main's inflow pressure and the desired, final reduced pressure. Two stage reduction is recommended when initial pressures are 200psi or greater, or when the desired pressure reduction ratio is greater than 4:1, e.g., from 200psi to 50psi, or where the inflow pressure fluctuates greatly. The advantage of two-stage serial reduction is that neither valve is subjected to extreme pressure differentials, thus prolonging valve life and delivering more precise pressure regulation.

Stage 1 Water Restrictions in Effect

Dear Customer,
On April 19, 2019 the Fern Valley Board of Directors approved the most recent stage decrease to Stage 1 due to the high precipitation this year. The declaration of stage 1 complies with the most recent water emergency mandate issued by the State of California.

Water Conservation Stage 1 ***Upon implementation of Water Conservation Stage 1***

(1) Users of District water shall prohibit irrigation runoff and shall eliminate water leaks on their property.

(2) Users of District water shall voluntarily limit the quantity of water used to that quantity, absolutely necessary for domestic and business purposes.

(3) Users of District Water shall take all steps necessary to prevent waste of water and to assure that all water is beneficially used to the maximum extent possible.

(4) Users of District water shall not wash hard or paved surface areas, including driveways, parking areas, patios, tennis courts, and similar impermeable surfaces, and shall not sprinkle unplanted areas for dust control or other purposes, except to alleviate immediate fire or sanitary hazards.

Water Conservation Stage 2 Upon implementation of Water Conservation Stage 2, Users of District water shall continue to follow water conservation measures under Water Conservation Stage 1 in addition to the further measures under Water Conservation Stage 2, as follows:

(1) Users of District water shall only irrigate outdoor plants and gardens between the hours of 6 p.m. and 8 a.m. and shall prohibit irrigation runoff.

(2) Restaurants shall provide drinking water to patrons only upon request

(3) Users of District water may wash automobiles, trucks, trailers, and other types of mobile equipment at any time, but only with a hand-held bucket and a hand-held hose equipped with an automatic, positive, shut-off nozzle. Such users shall not permit continuous flow during washing and rinsing. Such washings are exempted from these regulations where the health and safety, and welfare of the public is contingent upon frequent vehicle cleanings, such as ambulances, garbage trucks and vehicles used to transport food and perishables.

Water Conservation Stage 3 Upon implementation of Water Conservation Stage 3, Users of District water shall continue to follow water conservation measures under Water Conservation Stages 1 and 2 in addition to the further measures under Water Conservation Stage 3, as follows:

(1) Users of District water shall not fill or refill swimming pools, except to replace evaporation losses.

(2) Users of District water shall not use water from fire hydrants except for emergencies, the maintenance of system water quality, or the delivery of construction water.

Violations: All violations of the water use restrictions and prohibitions set forth herein shall result in the following actions.

(1) First Violation - Notice of Violation. The General Manager is authorized and directed to issue a written notice of violation to any person who fails or refuses to comply with the water use restrictions set forth herein. The notice shall specify a reasonable period of time in which compliance is to be achieved.

(2) Second Violation - Excessive Use Charge. For a second violation of the water use restrictions set forth herein, an excessive water use charge shall be imposed. The excessive use charge shall be a fine in the amount of $100, which shall be added to the water bill for the period in which the violation occurred. Failure to make payment of the entire amount due, including the excessive use charge, shall subject the person to the normal consequences for failure to timely pay a water bill as set forth in the District's Rules and Regulations.

(3) Third Violation -Extreme Use Charge. For a third violation of the water use restrictions set forth herein, an extreme water use charge shall be imposed. The extreme use charge shall be a fine in the amount of $200, which shall be added to the water bill for the period in which the third violation occurred. Failure to make payment of the entire amount due, including the extreme use charge, shall subject the person to the normal consequences for failure to timely pay a water bill as set forth in the District's Rules and Regulations.

(4) Fourth Violation - Termination of Service. For a fourth violation of the water use restrictions set forth herein, the General Manager has the authority to impose an additional fine in amount of $200 and to terminate service to the premises involved.

BRIEF SYSTEM DESCRIPTION

Fern Valley Water District was established in 1958 as a California Water District under Section 34000, Division 13 of the California Water Code. The District employs a staff of five, two office personnel and three field operators. Our system consists of approximately 22 miles of pipeline ranging in size from 4 to 12 inches in diameter. We currently have 1,176 service connections, ten groundwater wells with a total pumping capacity of 320-gpm (gallons per minute), four aeration plants to treat the well water, one 250-gpm surface water treatment plant, and a 250-gpm surface water granular activated carbon adsorption system. Water storage includes five storage reservoirs with a capacity of 4,499,431 gallons for finished water, and three reservoirs with a capacity of 2,340,000 gallons for raw or untreated water; for a total water storage capacity is 6,839,431 gallons. Because our system is "gravity-feed", we can provide continued service even during short-term power outages and disruptions in power supply.

MESSAGE FROM THE DISTRICT

The Fern Valley Water District is dedicated to providing the finest customer service and water quality possible. The District's Office Manager, Jessica Priefer, was recently promoted to Assistant General Manager and has been with the District for over 14 years. She is dedicated to providing the best customer service possible to all of the District's customers and will now be assuming a more active role in the day to day operation of the field operation in addition to managing the office. This will allow Victor Jimenez, the General Manager to spend more time in the field working with the field crews. She is very knowledgeable in both the field operation as well as the office and is happy to help you in any way she can.

The District wants to assure our customers that your water service is provided by certified professionals that far exceed the minimum State of California standards. The Fern Valley Water District has been classified as a T2/D2 system which requires a minimum of T2/D2 certifications for Chief Operator and T1/D1 certifications for Shift Operators. Currently the General Manager, Victor Jimenez, holds a T3 in water treatment and a D4 in water distribution and over 24 years of experience in the water industry. The veteran operator, James Nutter, holds a T3 in water treatment and a D3 in water distribution and over 24 years of experience in the water industry. The District's newest operator, Anthony (Tony) White holds a T2 and D2 and Cameron Clark also holds T2 and D2 certifications. In addition, Staff is certified in cross connection control and the District has a comprehensive cross connection control program.

WHAT'S NEW

- The District has completed the meter change-out project and the new meters are working great. Meter reading is completed in less than a day as opposed to up 4 days when operators read manually in the snow. In addition, estimating should no longer be required due to heavy snowfall and we have experienced no meter reading errors with the new automated system.
- The District just completed a pipeline project, upgrading Rim Rock, Upper Rim Rock, and Dogwood roads to 8" ductile iron pipe with new copper services and 6-inch hydrants throughout.
- The District has also just completed three pressure regulating stations to better serve the District and regulate high and low pressure areas.
- The District continues the fire hydrant upgrade program , replacing thirty-nine 4-inch fire hydrants with 6-inch commercial fire hydrants.
- The District has noticed elevated TOC (total organic carbon) levels in the creeks after the fire and storm events of the last couple of years. The District purchased and installed a TOC monitor at the treatment plant to allow real-time TOC monitoring, which allows us to monitor those levels and make adjustments immediately as opposed to waiting 10 days for lab results. This will greatly extend the life of our costly granular activated carbon utilized to eliminate the TOC from your water.
- The District has rocks available from the recent pipeline replacement project. If you are interested, please contact the District.

WHAT'S COMING

The District will be evaluating and upgrading the control systems for the treatment plant as well as augmenting equipment to enhance the vehicle and equipment maintenance program. Since 2016, the District has only outsourced vehicle smog inspections and tire mounting. All other vehicle and equipment maintenance has been performed in-house by District personnel.

The District is evaluating the ever changing capital improvement plan and prioritizing projects to optimize the District's operation. This coming year will not include any large projects to allow the District to replenish reserves as the most recent project was larger than the District normally undertakes. The following year will likely include two more pressure regulating stations and a smaller pipeline project.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

The general public is welcome to attend the regularly scheduled FVWD's Board of Directors meeting, scheduled for the third Friday of each month at 9:00 a.m. The meetings are held in the boardroom at the District Office located at 55790 South Circle Drive in Fern Valley. For meeting agendas, or if you have a topic that you would like to put on the Agenda, please contact Assistant General Manager, Jessica Priefer at (951) 659-2200.

This report contains important information about your drinking water. Translate it, or speak with someone who understands it.
Este informe contiene información muy importante sobre su agua potable. Tradúzcalo o hable con alguien que lo entienda bien.

FERN VALLEY WATER DISTRICT

55790 SOUTH CIRCLE DRIVE, P.O. BOX 3039, IDYLLWILD, CA 92549

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The District's online payment system can be accessed @ fernvalleywater.com

FERN VALLEY WATER DISTRICT

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It is our policy to be responsive to our customers' needs, and we are available for emergency assistance 24 hours a day. Our emergency phone number is (951) 659-2200.