

Make a Point to Plan for Emergencies and Their Aftermaths

September is National Preparedness Month, the perfect time to consider what you and your family can do to prepare for a disaster situation.

It's important to have a plan in place to deal with the types of disasters that are likely to occur in the Atlanta area. For example, it's a good idea to have at least three days' worth of supplies on hand. Emergency situations such as tornadoes, ice storms and power outages can and do occur, and being prepared can make the difference between minor and major discomfort – or perhaps life and death.

To learn more about how you and your family can prepare for emergencies, click on www.ready.gov.

DWM Emergency Plan

In the post-911 world, municipalities must plan for all types of emergency situations, from natural disasters to potential terrorist strikes.

DWM follows the federally mandated National Incident Management System (NIMS), which is a structured system for dealing with emergency situations. <http://www.fema.gov/emergency/nims/>

After the emergency – and in the process – municipalities have another priority: delivering necessary services to their customers. To ensure that Atlanta water and sewer customers continue to receive these services during and after an emergency situation, DWM has

developed a Continuity of Operations Plan (COOP). The COOP details what the department's essential functions are, how the department will continue to provide these functions, who will be assigned to what task, and all other related issues involved in keeping the utility running.

According to Angus Reed, Emergency Response Planner, "The NIMS takes care of disasters, but while the disaster is happening, the rest of the world keeps going."

The per-ccf security fee that water customers pay helps provide necessary funding for NIMS training and other measures that protect the City's water and sewer systems.

Integrity Matters

Call 1.800.884.0911 to report illegal or fraudulent behavior by City employees.

Beltline Progress Meeting Scheduled

Come hear the latest news about the Atlanta BeltLine at the next Quarterly Briefing on Thursday, Oct. 11, from 6-8 p.m., at the Atlanta Public Schools Auditorium, 130 Trinity Ave.

over →

Important Numbers to Remember

Customer Service: 404-658-6500
Customer Service Fax: 404-658-6637
Customer Service E-mail: watershedhelp@atlwater.com

City of Atlanta • Department of Watershed Management
55 Trinity Avenue • Suite 5400 • Atlanta, Georgia 30303





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Downtown Theater Goes Green

Last year, the Balzer Theatre at Herren's achieved an important goal: It became the first LEED-certified green theater building in the country. A big part of this certification, a U.S. Green Building Council designation that recognizes leadership in energy and environmental design, involved the theater's gray-water system, installed when the theater group that now occupies the building began renovating it.

"As we built onto the back of the building, we realized there would be a place for us to put a tank to hold rainwater," says Scott Zimmerman, General Manager of Theatrical Outfit and the Balzer Theater at Herren's. "It's roughly a 10,000-gallon tank – as water collects on the roof, it flows through drains and into this tank." A pump system and the force of gravity combine to move the collected water through a filter system and to its goal—the building's toilets.

"At a certain point, we have the ability to switch over to use City water if there isn't enough rainwater in the tank," Zimmerman says. However, since the theater season runs from early fall to late spring, the

building's inhabitants need less water during the summer. "We haven't had to [switch] in the past year," he notes.

In addition to the gray-water system for the toilets, the Balzer Theater has installed filtered, waterless urinals in the men's restrooms. "There is no flushing," Zimmerman says. Low-flush toilets, low-flow showerheads and sensor-controlled faucets were also installed throughout the building.

For Theatrical Outfit, practicing conservation was a way to honor the building's history. "Herren's Restaurant was one of the first restaurants in Atlanta to voluntarily desegregate," Zimmerman says. "When we were doing the renovations, we started thinking about being environmentally conscious about how we built."

In addition to conserving water, Theatrical Outfit recycled the concrete and steel from the renovation.

DWM's Utoy Creek Water Reclamation Center is also LEED-certified. For more information on LEED certification, click on <http://www.usgbc.org/>.

September Super Water Saver

To help water the very large garden at his Berkeley Park home, Jeffrey Rogerson both collects and conserves water. He keeps a dozen watering cans and a wheelbarrow in his yard to collect rainwater. Also, he and his family save their bath and shower water to reuse in the garden. Mr. Rogerson plans to connect a cistern to his gutters to collect rainwater, too!

