

# UPPER BLUE SANITATION DISTRICT

# UBSD



# NEWS

OCTOBER 2017

## SEPTIC SYSTEMS AND WATER QUALITY

Did you know that malfunctioning individual septic systems not only contaminate areas immediately surrounding the system, but can have a significant negative impact on water quality in the entire Upper Blue Basin? Contaminants such as phosphorus, nitrogen and coliform bacteria when discharged into the environment will have varying degrees of pollution, including negative impacts on human health. For instance, a septic system contributes up to 2 pounds of phosphorus per year into the ecosystem. This phosphorus contributes to the pollution of our rivers and lakes by adding nutrients that can cause everything from eutrophication of our reservoirs, to taste and odor problems in drinking water. In addition, nitrogen from these malfunctioning systems is not only toxic to aquatic life, but in certain forms is quite toxic to humans. Failing septic systems also increase bacterial presence, which is a strong indicator of direct human contamination and is considered very dangerous if ingested.

Construction of state of the art treatment systems combined with operations overseen by highly qualified personnel and collaborative relationships with other local governments, has ensured that the waters of the Upper Blue will remain "Blue" well into the future. We take great pride in our efforts to be proactive in the identification and implementation of water quality protection projects, such as connection of failing septic systems to the sewer system. These aggressive efforts in the protection of water quality and human health have placed the District as environmental leaders, recognized throughout the Country.

## STAY INFORMED AT UBSD.ORG

Did you know that you could find out everything from lowering your monthly bill to the District's Rules and Regulations on the District's web page? We attempt to have all the information you need to keep up to date. If you have any questions, we welcome you calling us at (970) 453-2723.

## DISTRICT TRANSPARENCY NOTICE AND MEETING SCHEDULE

This Notice outlines the District's contacts, meeting schedules, director information and 2018 election information. The Notice can be viewed at [www.ubsd.org](http://www.ubsd.org).

Meetings of the Board of Directors are held at 5:30 pm on the second Thursday of each month with a work session preceding each meeting. The meetings are conducted at the District's administration office which is located at 1605 Airport Road, Breckenridge and are open to the public.

## MEMBERS OF THE BOARD

**Barrie Stimson, President**  
**Patricia Theobald, Vice President**  
**Allyn Mosher, Secretary/  
Treasurer**  
**Jason Hart**  
**Jeremy Fischer**  
**Andrew Carlberg,  
District Manager**

The Board has been able to hold the rates the same for the last six years. With the re-commissioning of the Iowa Hill Facility and increased regulatory requirements facing the District, the Board of Directors will consider a rate increase in 2018. The Board will consider increasing the monthly service rate by \$3/qr/sfe and a 3-5% increase in the Plant Investment Fee. The Board will be reviewing these proposed increases as they review the 2018 draft budget beginning in September. The Public Hearing for adoption of the Budget is scheduled for December 14, 2017 at 5:30 p.m. at 1605 Airport Rd. The Draft Budget is also available online at [ubsd.org](http://ubsd.org). Public comment is welcome.

**HOW IS MY SEWER BILL CALCULATED?**

A common question we receive is the method by which a sewer bill is calculated. First, all building units, either residential or commercial are based on a single family equivalent, or "SFE". An SFE is defined as "the average characteristics of a home, of a single family in a permanent residence in the District". Based on flow studies, a single family home contributes a peak flow of 300 gallons per day/per SFE, and this is the base upon which the District evaluates all other uses. For the purposes of determining the amount of SFEs assigned to residential units, the District uses the number of bedrooms and bathrooms contained in the unit. For instance, a detached, three bedroom and two bathroom single family home equals one SFE. If the number of bedrooms and bathrooms increase, there is a resulting increase in the amount of SFEs assigned to the home. The amount of calculated SFEs is then multiplied by \$78 which is the current cost per SFE to equal your quarterly sewer charge. A detailed breakdown of SFE calculations can be found on the District's web site at [www.ubsd.org](http://www.ubsd.org).

**SUMP PUMPS ARE ILLEGAL**

In the Spring of every year we experience a high water table due to the run off. During this time we have problems with ground water entering our system resulting in an overload to our treatment facilities. We have crews working every day for months to locate and fix the problems. But in many cases there are problems coming from a customer's property. Many times this is due to leaky service lines, and in other cases we have detected the operation of a sump pump draining crawl spaces into the service line. This type of discharge is illegal under the District's Rules and Regulations because of the stress that it creates in our treatment plants. If you think that you have a sump pump we would be happy to conduct an on-site inspection.

**EMERGENCY CONTACT**

**INFORMATION**

Sewer backups due to failure of the District's main line are rare, but do occur. Usually the backup is due to a failure of the property's service line. Therefore, we recommend contacting a plumbing contractor initially. However, if there is concern that the problem is more than a failed service line, such as an overflow, then the best action is to contact the District by calling the emergency response phone. That number is **970-418-6073**. If for some reason that number does not reply, contact Summit County Dispatch at **970-668-8600**.

**UPPER BLUE  
SANITATION DISTRICT**

TELEPHONE: 970-453-2723

FAX: 970-453-2013

[WWW.UBSD.ORG](http://WWW.UBSD.ORG)

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