

# Watt's News

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Official Newsletter of Brainerd Public Utilities, PO Box 373, Brainerd, MN 56401

What Is Stormwater?

Stormwater is defined as any surface flow, runoff, and drainage

consisting entirely of water from any form of precipitation such as

rain or snow. Minnesota's lakes, rivers, forests and farms all depend on the replenishing waters of annual precipitation. However, when

rain falls on land and impervious areas such as paved streets, parking

lots and building rooftops it can wash away soil and sediment and pick up pollutants such as oil, chemicals and grease. This polluted runoff can severely reduce water quality. If left unmanaged,

stormwater runoff can stress our streams, age our lakes, and degrade

or eliminate our wetlands. The City of Brainerd is committed to

improving water quality through education, public involvement and

stormwater management. If you have any questions on this topic,

please call the City Engineer's Office at 828-2309.

Electricity, Water, Wastewater, Electricity, Water, Wastewater

# Watt's Weather

Total Precipitation
December 2009 19.03"
December 2008 26.50"
Average Temperatures
December 2009 Hi 20.5 Lo 3
December 2008 Hi 31 Lo -4.0

We are pleased to offer you the **Direct Payment Plan** for utility payments. With this plan your utility bill payment can be made automatically from your checking account, savings account, Visa or MasterCard.

## The Direct Payment Plan will help you in several ways:

- 1. Saves time fewer checks to write.
- 2. No late payments. Your payment is always on time, even if you're on vacation or out of town, helping to maintain good credit.
- 3. Saves postage.

Direct Payment Plan

- 4. Easy to sign up for, easy to cancel.
- 5. No late payment charges.

#### Here's how the Direct Payment Plan works:

- 1. You will continue to receive your monthly bill at the end of each month, allowing you to review the charges.
- 2. Your payment will be automatically deducted on or after the effective date on the 10th or the 25th of each month, depending on your account number.
- 3. Payments can be made from your checking account, savings account, Visa or MasterCard.

To take advantage of this service, complete the bottom of this form and return it to Brainerd Public Utilities, PO Box 373, Brainerd, MN 56401.

#### **AUTHORIZATION FOR DIRECT PAYMENT**

I authorize Brainerd Public Utilities and the financial institution named below to make automatic payments from the account I have specified on this authorization form. I understand that this authority is to remain in effect until cancelled in writing by myself, Brainerd Public Utilities, or the financial institution designated. If utilizing direct payment from a checking account I have attached a voided *check* showing my account number and routing transit/ABA number.

Brainerd Public Utility Account number as it appears on my utility bill		
Customer's Name	•	
Customer's Address		
Account type: Checking[ ] Savings[ ] Visa[	] Master Card[ ]	
Bank Account #	Routing Transit/ABA #	
OR		
Credit Card #	_ Expiration date:	Security code:
Signature	Date	

Contact Kara at Brainerd Public Utilities with any questions: PO Box 373, Brainerd, MN 56401, or 218-825-3201.



We collect new, gently used, and excess home improvement materials and sell them at exceptionally low prices. All profits go directly to the Lakes Area Habitat for Humanity.

Building houses, building hope in Cass, Crow Wing & Hubbard Counties

WED/FRI 10AM—5PM THURSDAY 10AM—7PM SAT 9AM—NOON

(phone) 218-454-8517 (e-mail) restore@lakesareahabitat.org

Located behind the East Brainerd Mall 10 E Street Brainerd, MN

## Shop

Cabinets, furniture, doors, light fixtures, windows, lumber, plumbing, flooring and more!

### Donate

Save on disposal costs, receive a tax deduction, promote "re-use" and conserve landfill space!

#### Volunteer

We couldn't exist with out our team of enthusiastic, hard-working volunteers. Come join us!



## Carbon Monoxide

Approximately 250 people in the United States died last year from the "Silent Killer" -- carbon monoxide (CO). This deadly gas is hard to detect because it is odorless, colorless and tasteless. BPU recommends that consumers follow these steps to help prevent carbon monoxide poisoning:

- Have a qualified technician inspect fuel-burning appliances at least once each year. Fuel-burning appliances such as furnaces, hot water heaters and stoves require yearly maintenance. A qualified technician can identify and repair problems with your fuel-burning appliances.
- Be alert to the danger signs that signal a CO problem: streaks of carbon or soot around the service door of your fuel-burning appliances; the absence of a draft in your chimney; excessive rusting on flue pipes or appliance jackets; moisture collecting on the windows and walls of furnace rooms; fallen soot from the fireplace; small amounts of water leaking from the base of the chimney, vent or flue pipe; damaged or discolored bricks at the top of your chimney and rust on the portion of the vent pipe visible from outside your home.
- Be aware that CO poisoning may be the cause of flu-like symptoms such as headaches, tightness of chest, dizziness, fatigue, confusion and breathing difficulties. Because CO poisoning often causes a victim's blood pressure to rise, the victim's skin may take on a pink or red cast.
- Install a CO detector outside sleeping areas. A CO detector will sound an alarm before dangerous levels of CO accumulate. CO indicator cards and other devices are also intended to detect elevated levels of CO, but most are not equipped with an audible alarm, and cannot wake you at night, when most CO poisonings occur.
- Read the manufacturer's instructions carefully before installing a CO detector.
- Avoid placing your detector directly on top of or directly across from fuel-burning appliances. These appliances will emit some CO when initially turned-on. Don't leave vehicles running in an enclosed garage, even to "warm up" your car on a cold morning.

Know how to respond to a CO detector alarm. If your alarm sounds, immediately open windows and doors for ventilation. If anyone in the home is experiencing symptoms of CO poisoning -- headache, dizziness or other flu-like symptoms -- immediately evacuate the house and call the fire department. If no one is experiencing these symptoms, continue to ventilate, turn off fuel-burning appliances and call a qualified technician to inspect your heating system and appliances as soon as possible. Because you have provided ventilation, the CO buildup may have dissipated by the time help responds and your problem may appear to be temporarily solved. Do not operate any fuel-burning appliances until you have clearly identified the source of the problem. A CO detector alarm indicates elevated levels of CO in the home. Never ignore the alarm.

OTICE: All electrical work performed in the City of Brainerd requires a "Request for Electrical Inspection" form to be filed, and work inspected by our inspector. Please call 825-3210 or 829-2193 for more information.

**Business & Repair Office Hours** 

7:00 a.m.—3:30 p.m.

**Business:** 829-8726 **Repair:** 829-2193

Emergency 24 hour service 365 days a year: 218-829-2193

EMAIL@BPU.ORG WWW.BPU.ORG

EFORE DIGGING: Call Gopher State One at 1-800-252-1166 for water and electric locations. All requests for locations must be made by calling the above toll free number at least 48 hours before digging begins.