

April 2011  
Volume 24, No 04



Y  
O  
U  
R

Service



Electricity—Water—Wastewater—Electricity—Water—Wastewater—Electricity—Water—Wastewater—Electricity—Water—Wastewater—Electricity—Water—Wastewater—Electricity

Utility Pruning



### TREE TRIMMING

Tree trimming requests will be put on a list to be done during the winter months. Trees that interfere with Brainerd Public Utilities' (BPU) power lines, with the exception of service wires to residences or buildings, will be trimmed or removed depending on

the circumstances.

Trimming or removal of trees on private property is the property owner's responsibility. BPU will temporarily remove and replace the property owner's service wires to accommodate the tree trimming or removal during normal business hours.

BPU requires 24 hours notification to temporarily remove the service wires.

If you would like to be put on the winter tree trimming list, call Kelly at 218-829-2193.

### SECURITY LIGHTING

BPU offers a security lighting program. Security lighting illuminates possible safety hazards to make your property safe at night, and protects your home or business by discouraging vandalism, theft, and burglary.

Security lighting is available to residential, commercial, and industrial customers. BPU installs the pole and maintains the security light.

This service is offered for a monthly fee of \$12.00 plus tax per security light. Call us today to sign up for this program at 829-2193.

### SUMMER SPRINKLING CREDIT

Summer is coming and for all our residential customers who like to keep their lawns lush and green, and their gardens plentiful, BPU summer sprinkling rates will soon be in effect.

The sprinkling rate will begin after your meters have been read in May. This credit is applied to your sewer charges (waste treatment and waste collection) on the bills you receive in:



- June
- July
- August
- September

For the above months, your sewer charges will be billed on the monthly average water consumption of your bill from:

- December
- January
- February

### Watt's Weather

**Total Precipitation**

March 2011 15.5"

March 2010 1.02"

**Average Temperatures**

March 2011 Hi 35 Lo 10

March 2010 Hi 47 Lo 24

**B**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.

**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

**N**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.

# Checking for Water Leaks

## Assuming there are no leaks in your house can cost you money!

Brainerd Public Utilities would like to offer the following tips and encourage all customers to monitor their homes for possible water leaks. Leaks not only waste water; they cost you money!

### First Sign

One of the first indications of a water leak is an unexplained increase in the usage amount and dollar amount on your monthly utility bill. If there is an increase in usage that cannot be explained (extra people in the house, lawn watering, faucet left on, etc) there is a possibility that a toilet is leaking, a faucet is dripping, or there is a break in the water line between the meter and the house. Other sources of leaks can be the sprinkler system, the water softener, or the automatic fill on the swimming pool.

### Monitor Your Meter

To identify leaks, we suggest that you monitor your meter. You will need to conduct the monitoring during a time period when you will not be using water. Monitoring while no one is home is ideal. First, turn off all water inside and outside the house. Write down the reading on the meter and the position of the sweep hand. Do not use any water for at least two hours. At the end of the monitoring period, read the meter a second time. If the second reading is different from the first, water flowed through the meter, indicating there may be a leak.

### Check Toilets First

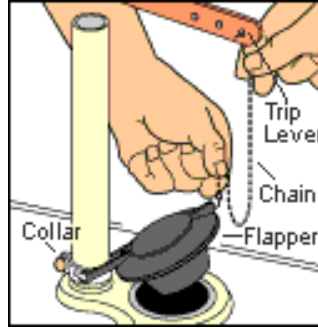
If a leak is detected, we recommend that you check your toilet(s) first. Our experience shows that most leaks occur in the toilet. A leaking toilet tank can waste up to 200 gallons of water per day and cost you 78 cents per day, \$ 23.40 per month approximately!

A toilet flapper hung partially open can waste up to 7,200 gallons of water per day!

To check for a leaking toilet you will need some food coloring (any color). Flush the toilet. Then

put enough coloring in the tank to color the water. Do not flush the toilet for at least an hour. If the water in the bowl of the toilet becomes colored there is a leak that will need to be repaired.

If you do have a leak, there are a number of possible causes. If you remove the tank lid and can easily identify the cause, correct the problem and try your leak test again. Consider that "fixes" such as bending the float back to shape, or adjusting how the rubber flapper falls, often end up failing soon



afterward. In most cases, you will simply want to replace the toilet flapper (the rubber piece at the bottom of the tank that keeps water in the tank) and/or filling mechanism. These are available at hardware stores and home centers for about \$12 each.

### Water Faucets

Water faucets, inside and outside of the house, can also be leaking. 100 drips per minute can waste up to 33 gallons per day. That's 12 cents per day, \$3.60 per month, and \$43.20 per year!



In most cases, a leaking faucet is caused by a worn washer or "O" ring.

If there is a leak in the water line there will be a spot in the yard that never dries up. This could indicate that the water line below needs to be replaced.

Remember, it is your responsibility to make sure all leaks are repaired in a timely manner. Brainerd Public Utilities is responsible for the main water line and the meter itself. Leaks on the BPU's line do not affect the charges on your water bill.