

## Be Ready, Be Safe

by Commissioner Trudy Rolla



The horrific images from the Japanese, Chilean and Haitian earthquakes vividly show what can happen during and after a severe earthquake. The Puget Sound region is on the “ring of fire” around the Pacific Ocean, where large numbers of earthquakes and volcanic eruptions occur. Our last great earthquake (magnitude 8.7 to 9.2) was in 1700 and seismologists expect

a similar one at any time. While we can’t stop earthquakes, we can prepare for their destructive force as much as possible.

### What is NUD Doing?

As your water provider, NUD takes its responsibility seriously to ensure that water is available as soon as possible after an earthquake.

- You may wonder about those huge water tanks - what if they break and spill all that water? We were worried about them too, and we added structural reinforcement to the Inglemoor, Westhill & Kingsgate tanks to reduce the possibility of breakage.
- If the Tolt pipeline (owned by Seattle Public Utilities and our main source of water) breaks, automatic controls will maintain storage levels in the tanks.
- If the pipes to your house or neighborhood break, we will have emergency water distribution systems at the water storage sites.
- We are not alone in this - we continually plan with other agencies for mutual aid response and coordination during emergencies.
- In addition to planning, we conduct “real life” exercises and/or drills to refine our skills and procedures. We have trained all critical staff in the “incident command system”, ensuring that whoever is first to respond knows what to do.



- We also provide community information about emergency preparedness, and have provided emergency drinking water to residents.

### What Can You Do?

But, as we have seen in other countries, you cannot rely only on the government or the Red Cross for immediate help. You need to be prepared to be self-sufficient for 3 to 5 days, at least. The two websites below have good information.

**Ready.gov** (<http://www.ready.gov/>). When you click on “Ready America,” you find:

- Build a kit - includes recommended items to include in a basic emergency supply kit.
- Make a plan - includes an online Family Emergency Planning Tool so you can make a printable Comprehensive Family Emergency Plan. It also provides a Quick Share application to help your family in assembling a quick reference list of contact information for your family, and a meeting place for emergency situations.
- Be informed - learn more about different types of disasters, from biological threats to wildfires. Learn about food safety for any disaster.

**3 Days 3 Ways** (<http://www.govlink.org/3days3ways/index.htm>). In addition to the above information, you can learn how to be involved with community emergency preparedness, including:

- Get Trained in CPR and First Aid, Community Emergency Response Teams, and health sanitation measures.
- Help a Neighbor, Help a Friend, Spread the Word through the Neighborhood Watch program or by volunteering.
- Get Connected with your Community through the Citizen Corps and local emergency management agencies.

Please contact Carl Lunak, Northshore’s Safety & Water Quality Officer, at 425.398.4419 for more information about what NUD is doing and what you can do to be better prepared.

# F.O.G - What Is It?

There's something in the sewers... silently growing, building up, choking the pipes, waiting to cause an overflow of sewage onto a street or a yard or even your home. It is grease! Common cooking grease, washed into the sewer system from restaurants, cafeterias, and even your home. Left unchecked, it will build up in the sewer pipes, causing problems for the District and our customers.

The District does not wait for the grease to build up. Our FOG Program helps us prevent grease blockages and overflows.

**What is FOG?** FOG is short for fats, oils and grease. FOG is found in lots of foods such as meats, sauces, salad dressings, foods cooked in deep fat fryers, cookies, pastries, cheese, butter and many more.

The District's FOG Program is two-fold. First, the FOG Program aims to keep grease out of the sewers as much as possible by inspecting the restaurants' grease interceptors yearly. Secondly, we routinely inspect and clean the sewer pipes to remove grease accumulation before it can cause an overflow.



Homeowners should be aware that they too can be a major source of grease in sewers and should take steps to eliminate grease from their wastewater. The easiest thing that you can do to keep grease out of the sewer system is:

- Never pour grease down the sink or into the toilet. Let the grease cool and solidify, then place it in the garbage can for disposal.
- Do not put food scraps down the garbage disposal. These units only shred solid material into smaller pieces and do not prevent grease from going down the drain.
- Use a strainer in the sink to catch food scraps and other solids.
- Wipe heavy oil or grease out of dishes with paper towels before washing in the sink. Throw the used paper towels in the garbage.



These simple steps can help prevent pipe blockages and sewer overflows. Sewer backups can be a health hazard, cause damage to homes, and threaten the environment. Remember, prevention is the key. Keep your pipes and drains "fat-free". ♣

## Attention Rental Property Owners

All service accounts at Northshore Utility District are kept in the name of the property owners. Since properties can be liened and/or foreclosed upon for the collection of unpaid service charges, this policy is necessary for the protection of owners of rental properties. Owners of rental properties should make arrangements with their tenants (if the tenant is responsible for the payment of utility bills) to avoid unpleasant surprises. For your convenience, the District will send a duplicate bill, addressed to "Resident" or the tenant, at the service address. The property owner or his/her agent must request this service in writing. There is an additional charge of \$1.50 per bill for this service. For forms and additional information, please contact the Billing Department at 425.398.4400 or download the Duplicate Bill Request form from our web site at [www.nud.net](http://www.nud.net) and click on *Downloadable Forms* from the Homepage. ♣



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Utility District  
Board of  
Commissioners:

Bruce Gardiner  
Commissioner

Robert Peterson  
Secretary

Don Ellis  
Commissioner

Trudy Rolla  
President

Margaret Wiggins  
Commissioner

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Board of  
Commissioner  
Meetings

are held at the  
District Office  
on the  
first and third  
Monday of each  
month at 5:30 p.m.  
except Holidays.



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