



# Water Talk



## Do You Test Your Water

We're often asked by our customers, "Do you test your water to make sure it is safe?" The answer is a resounding **"Yes, Absolutely!"**

In fact, water quality sampling is a 365-day-per-year task at the South Huntington Water District. The numbers and types of samples are strictly mandated and enforced by both the New York State Health Department and the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA). In many instances, the District goes beyond even those already stringent requirements. In 2012, we delivered over 2,000 water samples to our state-certified laboratory. Trained lab technicians performed sophisticated testing yielding over 16,000 individual compound analyses from those samples. Also, the District's State-licensed Treatment Plant Operators perform dozens of field tests every day, monitoring our finished drinking water for such parameters as pH, temperature, and free chlorine residual.

**What do we test for?** The water quality sampling list is extensive, with new constituents and their allowable limits being added fairly regularly. They target and analyze elements and compounds such as metals, volatile organic compounds, pesticides, salts, bacteria, nitrates, color, synthetic organic compounds, and radiological products. On a related note, the SHWD has been selected to assist the USEPA with

sample monitoring for currently "unregulated contaminants". We'll be looking for the possible occurrence of these contaminants on Long Island and, if found, to what extent they exist. Our data may then be used nationwide to place these contaminants on future regulated quality monitoring lists.

**Where do we collect samples?** In order to assure the very safest of drinking water, we sample at two separate and distinct locations before it enters your home. The first monitoring is at the sources, our deep wells throughout the District. But we need further assurance that our water maintains its quality once it leaves those production sites and travels through our distribution system to our customers. You might be interested to know that our regular distribution sampling points are places familiar to you – local schools, fire departments, and places of business. These sites are chosen not only for their reliability in being open for regular sampling, but also because they are representative of our distribution system in both geographical location and population density.

So YES, we do test our water. It's a vital and integral part of what we do at SHWD every day in order to ensure our customers the very safest and highest quality drinking water they so richly deserve.



H2M Laboratory Supervisor Linda Siciliano-Dunn (L) reviews water quality samples with the District's Chief Plant Operator Michael Feeney (R).



The Water District has watched with great interest as both the County of Suffolk and the Town of Huntington have recently transitioned to the "Code Red" emergency telephone home notification system. Employed with great effectiveness by the Town during and after Hurricane Sandy, we began to explore becoming part of the system as well. We are happy to say that the Town, through the Supervisor's Office, has been particularly helpful in allowing the Water District to now partner with them, giving us access to this comprehensive and efficient system at a very reasonable cost. We'll keep you apprised on further developments.



■ Commissioner **Ciro DePalo**, District Counsel **Michael McCarthy** and Commissioner **Dominick P. Feeney** (L - R) examine a new emergency generator at district administration building.

## New Emergency Generator On-Line At Administration Building

When the District's original emergency generator was installed almost 40 years ago at our Administration Building, it was a major step forward, allowing us to continue our vital mission during electrical outages. Through careful maintenance and timely repairs, the modest power unit carried the District through many extended electrical outages, caused by ice storms, power grid failures and more than a few hurricanes.

Undersized to supply our more modern building loads and also approaching the end of its reliable life, plans were made in early 2012 to replace it. Ironically, the new generator set was delivered two weeks after Hurricane Sandy hit Long Island! Our tired but reliable old generator was coaxed through one final four-day power failure here at headquarters. Our new automatic 'gen set' is powered by natural gas, it's quieter, cleaner running and sized to provide adequate emergency power now and through the foreseeable future.

Further enhancing our security and ability to operate in adverse conditions, we have also re-located our main electrical service underground and also replaced large segments of older building wiring and distribution panels inside the Administration Building.

**It's no accident that when your electricity fails, your phone is out, and your cable is down, your water supply is still reliably there! That comes from the District's planning, dedication and hard work, which you and your family expect and deserve.**



## It's 3:00 AM – Do You Know Where Your Main Valve Is?

Inevitably it happens in the middle of the night. You awaken to the sound of running water - and no one is using the facilities! It's an emergency and you need to turn the water off to the house. But do you know where and how to do that?

It makes sense to become familiar with the location and operation of the main valve inside your residence. In houses with a cellar, the main valve is usually on the front basement wall (the side facing the street) where the water service enters the home. With homes built on a slab, the main valve is usually located in the furnace room; look for the water service vertically entering that space from the floor.

Older valves have the traditional round handle. To shut off this type of valve, turn the handle clockwise until it stops. Don't force the handle – just turn until it is snug. If you have a newer "ball-type" valve, turn the handle so it is at a right angle to the flow of water, or "across" the piping. These valves generally operate easily and move only a quarter of a turn – do not force the handle when you feel it stop. If you have a plumber replace your older main water valve, you might consider the installation the simpler and easier to operate ball valve. Finally, never obstruct your main valve with stored items, or cover over the valve with sheetrock or paneling.

While you are always best served by having a workable and accessible main valve in the home, if all else fails and you have a true emergency, never hesitate to call us. We can assist you by turning the water off outside your home. We are available in emergencies around the clock, 365 days a year, at 631-427-8190.



BALL VALVE  
CLOSED



BALL VALVE  
OPEN



WHEEL TYPE  
VALVE

Eight-Time Winner of Suffolk County's **"Best Tasting Water"**

## WaterTalk

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