



COUNTY OF LAKE
SPECIAL DISTRICTS ADMINISTRATION
230 N. Main Street
Lakeport, California 95453
Telephone (707) 263-0119
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Jan Coppinger
Administrator

Dear Lake County Sanitation Sewer Customer:

This letter is being sent to all customers to provide information about rebuilding after the fires and other important information about the sewer system.

Fire Recovery:

With all the devastating fires in Lake County over the past couple of years, many homes were lost. Many are being rebuilt and we see a number of properties changing hands with new property owners starting to rebuild where a home had been previously.

When a single home burns, it is typically the responsibility of the property owner to cap and protect the exposed sewer connection until the home is rebuilt. During the wildfires, too many homes were lost at once and many property owners were struggling to just survive. Special Districts capped the exposed sewer connections to avoid debris and contamination from entering the system as well as avoid excessive storm water that would overflow the treatment plants during periods of rain.

When customers lost their homes, the base rate was removed from the sewer bill. Any Capital Improvement Fees or Loan Repayments remained. If you lost a home in one of the recent fires and are still receiving a bill with the "Sewer Base Rate" included, please call (707) 263-0119.

When you are ready to rebuild or utilize your sewer connection for construction trailers or temporary housing, contact our office beforehand at (707) 263-0119. It is the responsibility of your contractor to connect to the sewer, but we want to assist to ensure the line is uncapped and functioning properly.

If you purchase property that had a home that burned, please contact us to get any information about the sewer system and what is needed prior to using the connection.

FOG – Fats, Oil and Grease

Fats, oil and grease (FOG) are extremely destructive to sewer systems. They cause sewer backups in homes, sanitary sewer overflows and increase operating and maintenance costs that must be passed onto the customers. It is never ok to put FOG down the sewer lines. We seem to have more FOG related backups during the holidays and nothing can ruin a holiday gathering like a sewer backup. Please do not put any FOG down the drain and do not allow visitors and house guests to do so.

Rain and Flooding

Last winter, during the extreme rains, the entire sewer system was overwhelmed due to excess rain water. Lake County Sanitation spent over \$700,000 in septic haulers to avoid catastrophic spills from occurring. We are asking every customer to inspect their property line clean outs to make sure they are sealed and secured and not allowing rain water into the system. Also, it is illegal to intentionally send rainwater down any manhole. If you see anyone using manholes to drain gutters or rain water, please notify us. We not only want to avoid catastrophic sewer spills and contamination, we want to avoid unnecessary costs that will increase sewer rates and fees.

As costs continue to rise, we are trying to do everything we can to avoid increases in rate and fees. We hope that you, as a customer that pays the rates and fees, will help us accomplish this by avoiding FOG and Storm Water events from driving costs even higher.

The last couple of years have been very difficult for Lake County. The resiliency, compassion and spirit of so many in the county is inspiring and a great source of pride.

We hope everyone has safe and happy holidays and that 2018 is a great year for everyone in our county.

Sincerely,

Special Districts Staff