

Disaster Averted

On March 27 KMPUD Operators and Kirkwood Volunteer Fire Department (KVFD) responded to a report of a propane leak at a Kirkwood home. When KMPUD and KVFD arrived at the scene they found heavy snow and ice had damaged an unprotected propane meter and associated piping, causing the basement of the home to fill with propane gas. KMPUD propane operators then dug out the propane meter and turned off propane to the home and the area was vented to allow the propane gas to dissipate. The amount of propane gas that had pooled in the basement was enough that a single spark would have caused an explosion. This incident endangered District staff, volunteer firefighters and anyone that happened to be in the area. Fortunately, this propane leak was discovered by a person with a keen sense of smell and no one was injured. The base of Kirkwood has received 478 inches of snow so far this season which has buried most homes in the Valley. It was almost two years ago to the day, on March 26, 2017 that a home on the westside of the Valley exploded due to damaged propane infrastructure from the weight of large amounts of snow and ice. This latest incident serves as a reminder of the importance of having adequate protection for your propane meter and always ensure that your propane meter is vented and free of snow and ice.



KMPUD Propane Operator removes snow and ice from damaged propane meter.

Water Pressure at Kirkwood

The District maintains two water storage tanks located approximately 300 feet above the community service area. Water storage tanks are situated above service areas to provide for gravity flow to homes and businesses and to deliver adequate water pressure for fire fighting efforts. Due to the high elevation of our storage tanks, water pressure within our distribution system ranges from 80 psi to 160 psi. Water pressure exceeding 80 psi can damage household fixtures and plumbing. Due to the high-water pressures that are present in our system, all homes and businesses are required to install and maintain pressure reducing valves. Pressure reducing valves are used to adjust the water pressure to an appropriate pressure for your home. Pressure reducing valves are bell-shaped devices, typically located where the water service enters a home or business. District customers are responsible for the purchase, installation, and maintenance of these devices. These valves operate with a spring and rubber diaphragm mechanism that can wear out over time. The District strongly recommends that you acquire a simple water pressure gauge from a local hardware store and attach it to your hose bib to measure your water pressure. If the pressure exceeds 75 psi, your water pressure reducing valve may need to be adjusted, repaired, or replaced. You can contact District staff with any questions about water pressure in your neighborhood and pressure reducing valves.

Winter Update

The District has measured 478 inches of snowfall so far this winter season. Compared to February receiving 250 inches of snow fall, March has been much more reasonable, having snowed just 53 inches. The snow has piled up effecting snow removal operations as snow storage areas have quickly filled to capacity. Highway 88 has experienced numerous lengthy closures with the Spur having been closed for almost 24-hours at the writing of this article. Since the beginning of January the Carson Pass has been closed for 18 days and the Carson Spur closed for 29 days due to heavy snow, whiteout conditions, and avalanche control.



Snow measures almost 20 feet deep at the Community Service Building.

[Register Your Account](#)

Registering your account on www.kmpud.com gives you full access to monitor your utility account. With the District's remote meter capabilities homeowner's can track their own unbilled usage and determine if there are any irregularities. You will be able to view graphs of current and past usage for electric, propane, and water services. You can select how you would like to receive your monthly statements and newsletters, by mail, email or both. You can also check the website to learn if your payment has been received and processed. You can sign up to receive Emergency Notifications and Community Notices to help keep you in the loop on what is happening in Kirkwood even when you're away from your property. You can check and update your contact information and if necessary, the contact information of your property manager. It is vitally important that the District has current and accurate customer contact information for each of our customers in case of an emergency. To stay informed of Snow Removal activities you can see the last time your driveway and HOA were plowed, sign up to receive a notification each time your driveway or HOA is plowed, and send notifications to District staff of the dates that you will be at your Kirkwood home and would like to be on the priority plow list. The District recommends that all Kirkwood homeowners take advantage of these benefits by registering your account on www.kmpud.com. Registering your account is easy! Go to www.kmpud.com, and follow the instructions below. You will need to know your account number and your service address. If you have questions, or need help getting registered, please call (209) 258-4444 and our customer service representatives will be more than happy to assist you!

HOW TO REGISTER YOUR ACCOUNT:

- ◆ Log on to www.kmpud.com
- ◆ Click on Register and fill out New User Registration
- ◆ User name will be email address entered
- ◆ An authorizing email will be sent from info@kmpud.com
- ◆ Click on link to activate your account.
- ◆ Fill out My Profile section
- ◆ Register your property by going to Manage Properties
- ◆ Input KMPUD account number



[Roof Avalanches and Cornice Hazards](#)

Avalanche danger is most often associated with backcountry skiing and snowmobiling while the avalanche danger right outside our front doors is overlooked. Snow shedding off roofs usually happens without warning and can be deadly. Each year, snow and ice falling from buildings causes injuries and deaths around the world. Kirkwood has received 478 inches of snow so far this season and more snow storms are anticipated. With the large amounts of snow and ice on roofs and temperatures rising as the Spring season ramps up, the danger of roof avalanches increases. You can protect yourself and your family by staying away from the sides of buildings where snow can shed from the roof and stay away from buildings that have large icicles that can fall unexpectedly. Also beware of cornices that have formed on buildings and snow banks. A cornice is a mass of overhanging snow formed by the wind drifting snow onto the downwind side of an obstacle, such as the edge a roof or a snow bank. Cornices are inherently unstable and become more unstable in the springtime as temperatures fluctuate. Avoid walking or playing underneath cornice formations as they can break suddenly without a trigger. Always be aware of your surroundings in snow country and stay safe.



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