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MISSOULA COUNTY PUBLIC WORKS

Official Newsletter

Seasonal Home Tips: Winter Edition!

Montana winters can go from mild to below zero within hours! Prevention is key when winterizing your home. Here's a list of tips to help ensure you don't end up with a lot of headaches and costly damage in need of repair.

- Remove, drain and store attached garden hoses. Shut off the valves and insulate the faucet.
- Heating equipment, including chimneys, should be serviced annually to clear buildup and keep them running efficiently.
- Seal cracks by caulking around openings to help prevent cold air from seeping in. Install weather stripping and seals around windows, doors, air conditioners and mail chutes.
- Protect pipes from freezing by insulating those susceptible to freezing. With severe temperature drops, keep a stream of water running in a few faucets to guard against freezing and bursting.
- Keep your home cozy by setting your thermostat to at least 65 degrees. Make sure your house or apartment is well-insulated.

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Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4)

REPORT SPILLS AND LEAKS!

MISSOULA VALLEY
water quality district

SPILLS AND LEAKS HARM OUR STREAMS AND AQUIFER

CALL 258-4890 TO REPORT

Missoula County is an active participant of the storm water general permit requirement, formally known as the MS4 General Permit. MS4, meaning Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System, and the permit are administered by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). In 2005, the EPA delegated the Montana Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) to implement these permits in urbanized areas of Montana with populations of 10,000 or more as determined by the US Census.

The permit requires the county to implement and enforce a storm water management program to reduce pollutants from entering waterways and help protect water quality as it is outlined in the Montana Water Quality Act. In doing so, the county has partnered with the Missoula Water Quality District to assist with implementing the program and its six minimum control measures. Please call 406.258.4753 or visit <https://www.missoulacounty.us/government/health/health-department/home-environment/missoula-valley-water-quality-district> for more information.



What is stormwater runoff?



Stormwater runoff occurs when precipitation from rain or snowmelt flows over the ground. Impervious surfaces like driveways, sidewalks, and streets prevent stormwater from naturally soaking into the ground.

Why is stormwater runoff a problem?



Stormwater can pick up debris, chemicals, dirt, and other pollutants and flow into a storm sewer system or directly to a lake, stream, river, wetland, or coastal water. Anything that enters a storm sewer system is discharged untreated into the waterbodies we use for swimming, fishing, and providing drinking water.

The effects of pollution

Polluted stormwater runoff can have many adverse effects on plants, fish, animals, and people.

- ◆ Sediment can cloud the water and make it difficult or impossible for aquatic plants to grow. Sediment also can destroy aquatic habitats.
- ◆ Excess nutrients can cause algae blooms. When algae die, they sink to the bottom and decompose in a process that removes oxygen from the water. Fish and other aquatic organisms can't exist in water with low dissolved oxygen levels.
- ◆ Bacteria and other pathogens can wash into swimming areas and create health hazards, often making beach closures necessary.
- ◆ Debris—plastic bags, six-pack rings, bottles, and cigarette butts—washed into waterbodies can choke, suffocate, or disable aquatic life like ducks, fish, turtles, and birds.
- ◆ Household hazardous wastes like insecticides, pesticides, paint, solvents, used motor oil, and other auto fluids can poison aquatic life. Land animals and people can become sick or die from eating diseased fish and shellfish or ingesting polluted water.
- ◆ Polluted stormwater often affects drinking water sources. This, in turn, can affect human health and increase drinking water treatment costs.



DIRECTOR'S HIGHLIGHTS

SHANE STACK, P.E.

Public Infrastructure

Construction

Shane Stack started as Director of Public Works on April 1, 2019, after nearly 23 years with the Montana Department of Transportation, most recently as the Missoula District Preconstruction Engineer. At MDT, he planned, implemented and oversaw several high-profile, multimillion-dollar engineering projects in the Missoula area.



As I write this update we are about a month into fall and it already feels like winter. The mechanics have several plow trucks ready for winter maintenance. Once summer and fall work is complete for the year, the remaining trucks will be prepared for plowing.

This summer and fall have been productive for Public Works. The Road and Bridge Department completed two new bridges, one on Main Street in Frenchtown, and the other on Bible Lane in the Alberton area. Additionally, a bridge rehabilitation project was completed for the Lindberg Lake Bridge. The road crews were also able to take advantage of millings from MDT projects and have placed them on Holland Lake, Frontier, Canyon, and Placid Creek roads in the Seeley Swan area. In the Missoula area millings were placed on Ninemile, Cramer Creek, and Upper Miller Creek roads. They were also able to pave a portion of Ninemile Road, and all of Terrace Drive, Loraine Drive, and Stonehaven Avenue. All that work delayed fall road grading, but with some good weather, we'll complete that and be prepared for winter.

The Building Department has been busy the first four months of the fiscal year. In the first quarter they completed 846 permits compared to 781 permits last year during the same time. The Building Department has been able to keep the doors open to the public during this time, and provide the best possible customer service even during a pandemic. However, starting November 4th, the Building Department will be completing online only permitting as a precaution to the steadily increasing numbers of COVID-19 cases.

The RSID staff continue to ensure the sewer and water systems are always operational. The biggest move this fall was hiring HDR Engineering to provide engineering services to the four systems that the county manages. HDR will assist the RSID staff in making the necessary planning and improvements for the future.

Finally, our survey staff continue to quietly serve the public. Steve Niday and his staff have helped with surveys, easements, and petitions among other things. They continue to prove to be efficient and helpful to the public.

Thanks to all the staff at Public Works in their efforts to provide services to the public this past quarter.

As always, wishing you the best.



'Starting November 4th, the Building Department will be completing online only permitting as a precaution to the steadily increasing numbers of COVID-19 cases.'

ROAD DIVISION



The MT Dept of Commerce - Treasure State Endowment Program (TSEP)-funded grant assisted Missoula County in replacing the bridges on Main St in Frenchtown & on Bible Ln in Alberton! Thank you to Dick Anderson Construction & Jackson Contractor Group for your hard work and dedication to replacing these bridges!

REDUCE • RECYCLE • REUSE

Thank you to MDT for the millings from their project on Hwy 83! Recycled millings were put to excellent use by our crew on Holland Lake Rd, Frontier Dr, Canyon View Dr, and Placid Lake Rd! These heavily accessed roads should see the benefit of reduced dust and smoother travel. Pictures show work on Holland Lake Rd. Approximately 2.65 miles of millings were laid. Chip sealing will take place next year!



Collaborations between Missoula County & outside agencies including the MT Dept of Commerce - Treasure State Endowment Program (TSEP), MT Dept of Transportation, & local contractors has provided much needed improvements to local bridges & roads.

WELCOME TO THE BUILDING DIVISION

The New 'Normal' During COVID-19

Due to the increasing rise in numbers of COVID-related cases, our doors will remain closed after Election Day, November 3rd, to walk in traffic until further notice. Permitting services are available online at www.missoulacounty.build. We will be utilizing the pick up & drop off boxes located outside our front door for coordinated plan drop off & pick up. The public is encouraged to call our office at 406.258.3701 as well as use our online services. Inspections will proceed as they have been. The Seeley Lake office will remain open to the public, by appointment only. Please call 406.396.8148 to speak to our Seeley Lake inspector for appointments.

We strongly encourage on-site customers and contractors to wear appropriate PPE during the inspection and follow social distancing guidelines.



Permit Pick-Up & Drop-Off Boxes



**Plexi-Glass Shield
Paper Towels
Cleaner**

