

# **CITY OF BREWSTER**

## **RESIDENT INFORMATION NEWSLETTER May, 2015**

### **PUBLIC AWARENESS FOR WEATHER-RELATED AND CITY-RELATED ISSUES**

- ❖ **We encourage everyone to READ this newsletter.**
- ❖ **Take it seriously.**
- ❖ **We also encourage you to keep this notice for a reference.**

The City of Brewster annually adopts, from the League of Kansas Municipalities, the Kansas version of the Standard Traffic Ordinances and the Uniform Public Offense Codes for Kansas Cities. The City of Brewster also has our own City Code and General Ordinance manual, which is available for review at City Hall. The City of Brewster has also launched a new website for information. Go to: [www.brewsterkansas.com](http://www.brewsterkansas.com) and check it out!

#### **Items of concern:**

### **SIREN SIGNALS**

**In the event of an emergency, the City of Brewster has established these WARNING SIREN SIGNALS:**

- **TORNADO SIREN** – A 3-MINUTE STEADY BLAST SERVING AS A NOTICE FOR A POSTED WARNING. IN THE EVENT OF A TORNADO HEADED IN THE BREWSTER VICINITY, SIRENS WILL BE RUN CONTINUOUSLY, IF AT ALL POSSIBLE. Everyone is asked to take cover immediately! People outside the city limits may need to be contacted individually. *\*The City will test the sirens with a tornado drill on the first Monday of each month.*

DURING A TORNADO WARNING THE TORNADO SIREN MAY BE OPERATED EVERY 30 MINUTES UNTIL AN ALL CLEAR IS DETERMINED BY THE NOAA WEATHER OFFICE IN GOODLAND AND/OR THE THOMAS COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE.

- **TORNADO ALL CLEAR** - A 5-SECOND SHORT BLAST.
- **FIRE SIREN** - A WAVERING BLAST BEING RAMPED UP AND DOWN CONTINUOUSLY FOR A MINIMUM OF THREE CYCLES.  
*(It is unlawful to pursue a fire department to a fire -- please stay back and out of the way).*
- **WATER SERVICE DISRUPTION or REPAIRS** - 2 SHORT BLASTS. Remember that City services are not guaranteed.

### **WEATHER**

Weather is unpredictable so be prepared and stay informed with a battery powered weather radio for watches and warnings. For other information please go to the website: [www.nssl.noaa.gov/edu/safety/tornadoguide.html](http://www.nssl.noaa.gov/edu/safety/tornadoguide.html). Planning and locating shelter before the need arises should be a priority.

### **Radio and TV Alerts**

**TORNADO WATCH:** Tornadoes are possible in your area.

**TORNADO WARNING:** A tornado has been sighted or indicated by weather radar. If a warning is given, please move to your pre-designated place of safety.

### **What YOU Can Do For Tornado Safety**

#### **Before the Storm:**

- Develop a plan for you and your family for home, work, school and when outdoors. Make preparations with your neighbors before a storm strikes.
- Have frequent drills.
- Know the county in which you live, and keep a highway map nearby to follow storm movement from weather bulletins.
- Have a [NOAA Weather Radio](#) with a warning alarm tone and battery back-up to receive warnings.
- Listen to radio and television for information.
- If planning a trip outdoors, listen to the latest forecasts and take necessary action if threatening weather is possible.

#### **If a Warning is issued or if threatening weather approaches:**

- In a home or building, move to a pre-designated shelter, such as a basement.
- If an underground shelter is not available, move to an interior room or hallway on the lowest floor and get under a sturdy piece of furniture.
- Stay away from windows.
- Get out of automobiles.
- Do not try to outrun a tornado in your car; instead, leave it immediately.
- Mobile homes, even if tied down, offer little protection from tornadoes and should be abandoned.

## **FAMILY DISASTER PLAN**

Families should be prepared for all hazards that affect their area. NOAA's National Weather Service, the Federal Emergency Management Agency, and the American Red Cross urge each family to develop a family disaster plan.

Where will your family be when disaster strikes? They could be anywhere - at work, at school, or in the car. How will you find each other? Will you know if your children are safe? Disasters may force you to evacuate your neighborhood or confine you to your home. What would you do if basic services - water, gas, electricity or telephones - were cut off?

**Follow these basic steps to develop a family disaster plan...**

**I. Gather information about hazards.**

Contact your local National Weather Service office, emergency management or civil defense office, and American Red Cross chapter. Find out what type of disasters could occur and how you should respond. Learn your community's warning signals and evacuation plans.

**II. Meet with your family to create a plan.**

Discuss the information you have gathered. Pick two places to meet: a spot outside your home for an emergency, such as fire, and a place away from your neighborhood in case you can't return home. Choose an out-of-state friend as your "family check-in contact" for everyone to call if the family gets separated. Discuss what you would do if advised to evacuate.

**III. Implement your plan.**

(1) Post emergency telephone numbers by phones; (2) Install safety features in your house, such as smoke detectors and fire extinguishers; (3) Inspect your home for potential hazards (such as items that can move, fall, break, or catch fire) and correct them; (4) Have your family learn basic safety measures, such as CPR and first aid; how to use a fire extinguisher; and how and when to turn off water, gas, and electricity in your home; (5) Teach children how and when to call 911 or your local Emergency Medical Services number; (6) Keep enough supplies in your home to meet your needs for at least three days. Assemble a disaster supplies kit with items you may need in case of an evacuation. Store these supplies in sturdy, easy-to-carry containers, such as backpacks or duffle bags. Keep important family documents in a waterproof container. Keep a smaller disaster supplies kit in the trunk of your car.

**A DISASTER SUPPLIES KIT SHOULD INCLUDE:**

A 3-day supply of water (one gallon per person per day) and food that won't spoil, one blanket or sleeping bag per person, emergency tools, including a battery-powered NOAA Weather Radio and a portable radio, flashlight, plenty of extra batteries, and special items for infants, elderly, or disabled family members.

**IV. Practice and maintain your plan.**

Ask questions to make sure your family remembers meeting places, phone numbers, and safety rules. Conduct drills. Test your smoke detectors monthly and change the batteries at least once a year. Test and recharge your fire extinguisher(s) according to manufacturer's instructions. Replace stored water and food every six months.

Practice and safety, it may just save your life!

**DOGS** – We have had complaints concerning dogs running at large and the harboring of vicious dogs. Dogs must not be allowed to run at large without supervision and need to be in control of the owner. Dogs left unattended must be penned or on a leash.

- **It is PROHIBITED to own and or harbor pit bull dogs within the city limits.** Ordinance 2-213 makes it unlawful to keep, own or harbor any cross or vicious animal without it being securely fastened, tied and muzzled, or the animal shall be secured in an enclosure so that the animal cannot escape. Penalty for this ordinance for the first offense is \$100.00 and goes up to \$300.00. In the past we have had citizens bitten by aggressive dogs, and this will not be tolerated. **The City Superintendent/Law Enforcement official has the authority to dispose of any animal showing signs of aggression to preserve the safety of the community. If you own a dog of this nature, please remove it from the city limits immediately.**
- It is unlawful to allow your dog to run at large or disturb the peace. Please, try to keep your dogs from barking excessively and bothering your neighbors. It is your responsibility!
- **DOG TAGS - All dogs over six months of age need to be registered with the city treasurer by May 1<sup>st</sup> of every year (new city dog tags are due by May 1, 2013). Please call Sandi Bear at 785-694-2205 to register your dog, if you haven't already done so. Proof of a rabies vaccination needs to be shown to get registered.**

**OPEN BURNING** - There is to be NO open burning in any street, alley or vacant lot within the fire limits or within 25' of any building, except in a screened barrel or approved garbage burner. An approved container has a tapered barrel, two handles and holds no more than 30 gallons.

**TRASH** - The City has trash containers, trash carts and trash bags for sale, or you may purchase your own (see pricing below).

- **IMPORTANT-- Disposing of any items at the Waste Water Stabilization Ponds is illegal. Any items found and disposed of without first obtaining permission from the City Superintendent may be prosecuted for trespassing and illegal dumping. Contract or for hire services are not allowed to dispose of items as well.**
- Plastic bags of not less than 1.5 mills in thickness may be used and must be securely closed and kept away from animals.
- Unbagged trash needs to be put in approved containers. The containers shall be of galvanized iron or plastic material of substantial construction. They need to

have suitable handles to permit lifting, have a lid and a capacity of no more than 30 gallons. Trash will not be picked up in unapproved containers. **CHEMICAL BARRELS ARE NOT APPROVED CONTAINERS FOR TRASH PICKUP.**

- Tires, cement, metal or trees larger than 4" in diameter and 36" in length will not be accepted.
- All branches must be tied and bundled.
- Bagged grass will be accepted for disposal at the landfill. We cannot take wooden pallets, appliances, etc.
- NO trees or branches shall be taken to the sewer plant, without permission from the City Superintendent.
- Fines may be issued for non-compliance.

**There have been numerous reports of individuals illegally dumping into private containers. We remind those individuals that if they are dumping without paying for the service, it is illegal and they are stealing services.**

The following are trash containers which attach to the trash truck and may be purchased from the city:

- Trash containers of 96-gallon capacity cost \$85.00.
- 3-yd. trash dumpsters are available to rent or purchase. Dumpsters are available for rent at \$25.00 per month or purchase at a cost of \$850.00. All are subject to a monthly pickup fee.
- Rolls of 50 "City of Brewster" trash bags are available for \$10.19 per roll (tax included).

*\*If you would like to purchase or rent a dumpster or purchase a container or bags, contact the City Superintendent.*

**DISPOSITION OF USED CHEMICAL CONTAINERS AND BARRELS** - Recently we have had some farmers deposit chemical containers in city/business trash receptacles. First, if you are not paying for the service this is illegal dumping; and second, it is your responsibility to remove all chemicals from the container by triple rinsing and then removing the lid or puncturing the container so that it will be emptied and dry. **SERIOUS HEALTH RISKS ARE ASSOCIATED WITH CHEMICALS THAT ARE NOT MANAGED CORRECTLY.** **Unlawful dumping and not complying with the regulations to discard these containers with the proper procedure and permission to deposit into private waste receptacles is a KDHE and EPA violation and punishable by fines and jail.**

**BB Guns** - In accordance with State Law, BB/Pellet Guns are illegal to use in the city unless operated in the manner listed below.

\*UPOC 10.6 - **AIR GUN, AIR RIFLE, BOW AND ARROW, SLINGSHOT, BB GUN OR PAINT BALL GUN.** The unlawful operation of an air gun, air rifle, bow and arrow, slingshot, BB gun or paint ball gun is the shooting, discharging or operating of any air gun, air rifle, bow and arrow, slingshot, BB gun or paint ball gun within the city, except within the confines of a building or other structure from which the projectiles cannot escape. Unlawful operation of an air gun, air rifle, bow and arrow, slingshot, BB gun or

paint ball gun is a **Class C violation whereby not to exceed one month in jail and payment of a fine of not more than \$500.00.**

**TREES & WEEDS** – We would like to encourage everyone to keep their property mowed this summer. Weeds or grass shall not exceed 12” in height. Also property owners need to remove all dead trees on their property. The city may exercise the right to file a complaint until the nuisance has been abated or corrected. The City council appreciates everyone helping to KEEP BREWSTER NEAT and CLEAN!!

**ABANDONED VEHICLES** – According to Article 8-303 of the City Code, it is unlawful for any person to have a motor vehicle that is not currently registered or tagged, parked in violation of city ordinance, incapable of moving under its own power or in a junked, wrecked or inoperable condition. Please repair or remove these vehicles from private property. **We have a 72-hour rule on parking without movement on the streets of Brewster. After 72 hours, your vehicle can be towed at the owner's expense.**

**ABANDONED REFRIGERATORS** – Refrigerators that have latched doors shall be secured or removed to prevent access by children.

**SEMI TRUCK AND TRAILER PARKING** - It is unlawful to "dolly down" trailers on any of the asphalt streets in the City of Brewster. Parking in the proper direction, according to traffic laws, should be followed.

**WATER BILLS** are due on the 15<sup>th</sup> of the month. We have two containers where you can drop off your payment. One is inside the Brewster Grocery Store and the other is located by the southwest corner of the City Building at 425 Illinois Ave. You may also mail your payment to the City of Brewster, P.O. Box 147, Brewster, Kansas 67732. **If you cannot make your payment by the due date, you need to contact the city treasurer by letter to make arrangements prior to the due date. Please pay your bills on time so there is no confusion.**

**Water Rates** - The City of Brewster recently passed an ordinance providing for an increase in water rates. The water rate structure for the City residents was passed on February 12th, 2013, Ordinance 313.

The minimum monthly water bill is \$10.00 for residential customers, which allows each customer to use up to 2,000 gallons of water each month. Water use in excess of 2,000 gallons is charged \$1.00 per 1,000 gallons. For customers outside the city limits the charge shall be a minimum of \$20.00 for the first 2,000 gallons and \$2.00 minimum per 1,000 gallons thereafter.

On January 14, 2014, the bulk water rates at the bulk water dock were set at \$3.00 per 1,000 gallons, effective February 1, 2014. Bulk water through the fire hydrants was set at \$7.00 per 1,000 gallons.

**Sewer** - The sewer rate for all customers is \$3.00 per month.

**Public Water Information** - We have been and are very involved in ongoing environmental studies and impacts with various firms to resolve our water quality issues. The City of Brewster has experienced some nitrate levels that exceeded the Kansas Department of Health and Environments maximum contaminant levels (MCLs). The states level is set at 10 parts per million (ppm) and we have had levels reach 12 ppm. We are currently working with KDHE, Frontier Ag and ADM in a pilot project to address and correct this concern. Nitrates are all around us and all across the western part of Kansas. Below is a copy of the content in the latest KDHE Notification that was available online or you had received by mail dated 1-24-15:

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**What should I do?**

- 1 **DO NOT GIVE THE WATER TO INFANTS.** *Infants below the age of six months who drink water containing nitrate in excess of the MCL could become seriously ill and, if untreated, may die. Symptoms include shortness of breath and blue baby syndrome. Symptoms in infants can develop rapidly, with health deteriorating over a period of days. If symptoms occur, seek medical attention immediately.*
- 2 *Water, juice, and formula for children under six months of age should not be prepared with tap water. Bottled water or other water low in nitrates should be used for infants until further notice.*
- 3 **DO NOT BOIL THE WATER.** *Boiling, freezing, filtering or letting water stand does not reduce the nitrate level. Excessive boiling can make the nitrates more concentrated, because nitrates remain behind when the water evaporates.*
- 4 *Adults and children older than six months can drink the tap water (nitrate is a concern for infants because they can't process the nitrates in the same way adults can). However, if you are pregnant or have specific health concerns, you may wish to consult your doctor.*

**What happened? What is being done?**

*Nitrate in drinking water can come from natural, industrial, or agricultural sources (including septic systems and run-off). Levels of nitrate in drinking water can vary throughout the year. We'll let you know when the amount of nitrate is again below the limit.*

*[Describe corrective action, seasonal fluctuations, and when the system expects to return to compliance.]*

*The City of Brewster will continue to monitor the water as directed by the Kansas Dept. of Health and Environment. Currently we are pumping well #4 and we are simultaneously pumping water from water wells #1 and #2 to reduce the level to the MCL standard set by the Safe Drinking Water Act of 1986. Our water quality concerns have been shared with the KDHE staff in Topeka over our nitrate levels.*

*Drilling a new well does not secure safer water. Many cities are facing these same or worse water quality issues. We still have very good water quality as a whole for the City of Brewster. The City of Brewster's Consumer Confidence Report may be viewed at: <http://www.krwa.net/krwa/ccr/brewster/Brewster.pdf>*

*For more information, please contact: City Superintendent, Mike Schultz at Phone 785-694-2205 for the office or 785-462-1447 or by mail to: 425 Illinois St. P.O. Box 147, Brewster, Ks 67732*

*Please share this information with all the other people who drink this water, especially those who may not have received this notice directly (for example, people in apartments, nursing homes, schools, and businesses). You can do this by posting this notice in a public place or distributing copies by hand or mail.*

*This notice is being sent to you by the CITY OF BREWSTER*

**STATE WATER SYSTEM ID# D4000  
FEDERAL ID# KS2019303**

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**Point of Use Water Treatment Devices:** Water treatment systems known as POU's or reverse osmosis treatment units are available online and with water treatment providers. You may privately purchase one of these and in time the city may offer as a solution to the water issues as a viable water treatment option (there are initial cost and continued maintenance cost associated with POU's). Under current law if we go with POU devices, the city will have to own all the units and maintain these if chosen and approved by KDHE. I would be glad to discuss this with anyone interested in the use and maintenance of these systems.

**Brewster Consumer Confidence Report (CCR) On Line** - This is a water quality and monitoring report available for citizens, which was previously mailed to you annually. The Environmental Protection Agency recently passed Senate Bill 1578 whereby allowing the cities in Kansas to now provide CCR reports electronically, rather than by mail, to save on postage expense. **This went into effect on July 1, 2013.** To access the report electronically, go to the following address on the internet: [www.brewsterkansas.com](http://www.brewsterkansas.com) or go to [www.krwa.net/ccr/brewster](http://www.krwa.net/ccr/brewster). If you have no internet access, paper copies will be available for those who request one. Please notify the city office if you request a paper copy.

**Other items of concern:**

- Legal concerns for those operating 4-Wheelers/ATV's on public streets. According to State law, they are not to be operated on a public roadway without the proper permitting. (Proof of liability insurance is required). Liability will be your concern if you ride on public streets and an accident should happen. The City council has given exception to those used as work vehicles only (spraying, snow removal etc.). Special use vehicles will be reviewed by the council on a case by case basis.
- Bikes and riders are subject to the same regulations as motorized vehicles in that you must obey all traffic laws. Please share with your children that it is their responsibility to pay attention before entering onto a public street. \*\*During Harvest we ask that parents use common sense to prevent a bike/ truck /child accident from happening. These trucks cannot stop on a dime, and it is often difficult to see small children. Supervision is critical during these times.
- For clarification: All trees and branches picked up by the sanitation service, must be less than 4" in diameter, less than 50 lbs., less than 36" in length, tied and in bundles less than 18" in diameter. \*Municipal code 15-305.

**The City's website, [www.brewsterkansas.com](http://www.brewsterkansas.com) is a reference for you. Ordinances, newsletters, notices and other valuable information will be posted on this site.** If you have no internet access and need paper copies of notices or newsletters, please notify the office.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact:

City Superintendent, Mike Schultz 785-462-1447 mo., City Treasurer, Sandi Bear, or City Clerk, Daryl Ann Jorgensen at 785-694-2205 (office number), or Brewster Mayor, Rex Jamison at 785-694-2449.

The City Office is open from 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday.