

Water Contamination:

Serious Health, Safety Concern

A construction truck backs up to a fire hydrant. Two workers get out and begin filling the truck's water tank, using a direct connection from the hydrant to their truck.

This simple act might pose a threat to the public water supply and our customers. The danger comes when a hose connected to a source of non-potable liquid, such as a pesticide truck, is also connected to the public water system without proper protective measures.

If a pressure drop occurs, contaminants from the truck's tank could be forced back into the potable water system, thus, contaminating public drinking water.

Backflow prevention devices protect the public water supply by ensuring contaminants aren't siphoned back into the system if a drop in pressure occurs.

Pressure drops can take place when a water main breaks, when power outages occur or when demand on another part of the system becomes extremely high, for example, if firefighters are using a nearby hydrant to fight a blaze. Backflow prevention devices stop any potential for contamination of the water system. They may be mounted directly on the hydrant or on the receiving tank truck.

Potentially dangerous cross-connections can occur in homes as well.

If a homeowner is using a hose submerged directly into the water to fill a pool or places the hose in a sprayer used for weed or insect control and the water pressure drops, water from the pool or sprayer could be siphoned into the water system.

The Hillsborough County Water Department is vigilant in its efforts to prevent cross-connections and possible contamination of our water system. However, everyone needs to help prevent contamination of our water system.

If you see a truck filling up at a hydrant, record the name of the company, the license plate number, the date and time of the incident and the location of the hydrant. Then call the Water Department at **264-3835**, so an investigation can be conducted.

GOT QUESTIONS?

GET ANSWERS!

272-5900

HILLSBOROUGH INFORMATION LINE



Charlie Simons of A Discount Sign installs the first of a series of signs appealing to motorists' feelings about families in order to get them to drive safely.

Road Signs Appeal To Family Values

The grammar may be a little faulty and the artwork may be pretty primitive, but Public Works is hoping that the new bright blue and yellow signs may save a few lives and prevent accidents.

Installed at the intersection project at Lakewood and Broadway, the new caution sign cost approximately \$250. They will be used at all of the County's major road construction projects.

Other signs along the same line but smaller will be available for neighborhood associations that would like to partner with Hillsborough County in paying for them. An example would be: "Please Drive Slow. My Brother Plays Here."

For more information, call 272-5275.

Hillsborough County Communicator

Published every month by the Communications Department to inform residents about the programs, services and activities of their County government.

For more information, call Public Information at 272-5314 or the Hillsborough Information Line at 272-5900.

Web site: www.Hillsboroughcounty.org

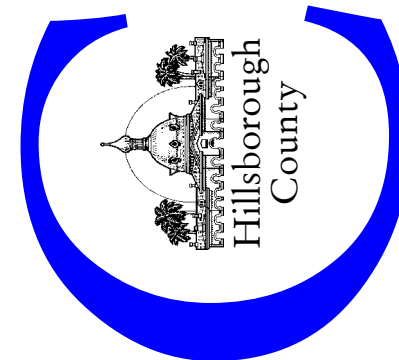
Daniel A. Kleman
County Administrator

HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY

Board of County Commissioners

ommunicator

Keeping You Informed About County Government



April 2003

Water You Thinking?!

Next time
use only
what you need.



Celebrate Water Conservation Month

Of all the water in the world, less than 1 percent is readily available for consumption. Fresh water is one of our most precious, and limited natural resources. To help celebrate its importance to us, the Hillsborough County Commission has proclaimed April Water Conservation Month.

For information on a variety of water matters, go online at www.hillsboroughcounty.org, click on the A-Z Index, then on "w." That will give you a choice of links: Water Restrictions, Water Conservation, and Water Department.

Ways To Save Water

- Limit showers to five minutes: A shower typically uses about three gallons a minute.
- Follow local watering restrictions when irrigating turf and/or plants.
- Turn off the faucet while brushing teeth or shaving. This can save up to five gallons a day.
- Fix leaky faucets. A leak can waste as much as 100 gallons of water a day.
- Use your dishwasher and washing machine only for full loads. A clothes washer uses about 50 gallons of water, and it takes 12 to 20 gallons of water to run an automatic dishwasher for one cycle.
- Conserve up to 200 gallons of water a day by checking for leaks in your toilet. Often, a worn flapper is the culprit. Be certain to replace worn flappers with the correct after market model.

Mosquitoes Love Standing Water -- Dump It!

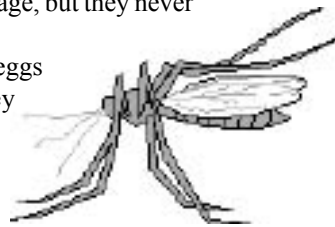
The return of rain storms also means the advent of mosquito season. If there are any places around your home where water collects, you may be raising your own crop of mosquitoes.

All mosquitoes need water in which to pass their early life stages. Adult flying mosquitoes frequently rest in grass, shrubbery and other foliage, but they never develop there.

Some mosquitoes lay their eggs in standing water where they hatch in a day or two.

Other mosquitoes lay their eggs in old tires, tin cans, or other water-holding containers in which they may remain unhatched for weeks or months until they are covered with water.

With both types of mosquitoes, the wigglers or larvae grow quickly and turn into tumblers or pupae. Soon the skin of the tumbler splits open and out climbs another hungry mosquito.



To help stop mosquito development — get rid of standing water:

- Empty, remove, cover or turn upside down any receptacle that would hold water — particularly old bottles and tin cans.
- Change water and scrub vases holding flowers or cuttings twice each week, or grow cuttings in sand.
- Discard old tires or store them indoors.
- Screen rain barrels and openings to water tanks or cisterns.
- Repair leaky plumbing and outside faucets.
- Connect open wastewater drains to sewage system or construct separate stump or leach lines.
- Clean clogged roof gutters and drain flat roofs.
- Fill holes in trees with sand or mortar or drain or spray them.
- Stock ornamental ponds with mosquito-eating fish such as Gambusia or minnows. Keeping the surface of pond water moving by using a fountain also prevents mosquitoes from breeding.



Gauging Rain

Hillsborough County Water Department Senior Water Conservation Inspector Gerard Watson gives Anne Childers a rain gauge during the Good Community Fair, held Feb. 22 at Lowry Park. Water Department staff members were on hand to discuss conservation and give out water-saving items such as low-flow shower heads and sink aerators.