

Mesa Water is Confident in Its Water Supply to Support Fire Emergencies

Mesa Water District (Mesa Water®) is well prepared to provide water for a fire emergency in our service area. Mesa Water has made significant investments to ensure that primary, standby, and backup systems are in place to provide a reliable, safe water supply for our customers and local fire authorities.

Mesa Water has the following resources in place to support Costa Mesa Fire & Rescue in its work to protect life and property in our community:

- Nearly 3,500 fire hydrants that are tested and maintained annually;
- Backup natural gas-fueled generators to support the water production system, if electricity was cut off or failed for other reasons;
- Two new groundwater wells, which increased our pumping capacity by 8,000 gallons per minute; and
- Two of our reservoirs, that hold a total of 28 million gallons of water, are fully operational while being upgraded to increase usable capacity by 11 million gallons during peak demand.

In addition to our infrastructure, we operate an emergency notification system called Mesa Water Notify. In the event of a water emergency, we will send customers a notification via email and text.

All customers are automatically opted in when they establish an account, as long as we have a current email address or mobile phone number in our customer information system. To confirm we have your correct email address and mobile phone number, please call Customer Service at 949.631.1200.

Additionally, Mesa Water routinely coordinates with the City of Costa Mesa and Costa Mesa Fire & Rescue to ensure we are working together on emergency preparedness and response.



What You Can Do to Protect Your Home or Business from Fires

Although Mesa Water's service area is a relatively low risk zone for wildfires, it is still important to be prepared. Here are a few fire readiness tips to keep your home or business safe:



Pay attention to **Red Flag Warnings** from the National Weather Service.



Create a **defensible space** around your home by clearing away flammable vegetation and debris, keeping your lawn well-maintained, and trimming trees and shrubs to ensure a safe distance from structures.



Drip Edge Installation – Consider adding a noncombustible metal drip edge to protect your roof's edge from ember exposure.



Consider installing an **indoor sprinkler system** - All new residential buildings in California are required to have sprinkler systems installed during construction per California Residential Code.



Regular Cleaning – Be sure to keep gutters free from plant debris to prevent ember ignition.



Gutter Guards – Use noncombustible gutter covers to keep out debris and reduce maintenance.



Inspect your pipes for leaks or damage that could affect water flow during a fire.



Install long garden hoses at your property that can reach all areas, including roofs and decks.

In the event of a fire, residents should follow any and all evacuation orders from fire authorities.

Water-Wise Tip

If rain is in the forecast, be sure to turn off your sprinklers and leave them off for 48 hours following rainfall.



Staff Splash: Meet Jamar

Jamar, Senior Accounting Technician, has had multiple roles at Mesa Water and is a fantastic resource when it comes to customer history.

How did you get into the water industry?

I had a family friend who worked at Mesa Water and there was an opening for a part-time Customer Service Representative. I was hired and shortly after, the District had a need for a full-time employee, so my position was changed to full time and I have been here ever since.

What would the community find surprising about Mesa Water?

Some customers may not know that we provide water for John Wayne Airport. Anytime you fill your water bottle at the airport, you are using Mesa Water!

What are some of your highlights working at Mesa Water?

I have enjoyed getting to know our customers personally and building a rapport with them to assist with any of their water

account needs. I enjoy when they come to the Customer Service desk, and I get to catch up on their lives. One time, a customer came in to pay his water bill with a dog on his shoulder like a bird. The dog was so cute and friendly!

What are the various roles you have had at Mesa Water?

I had the role of Customer Service Representative for 18 years. Recently, our Senior Accounting Technician position opened up. Applying for the role seemed like a good fit, because there is a lot of crossover with my experience in customer billing. I began my new position in January and it's been a great transition.

What do you enjoy doing when you're not at work?

I enjoy spending time with my family. I also love gardening; I have a tropical theme going in my yard right now.

Meet the Water Issues Study Group Class of 2025!

Nearly 40 customers and residents immersed themselves in local water knowledge at our annual Water Issues Study Group in February. During the two-night series, customers learned about Mesa Water's history and infrastructure, water quality, the Orange County Groundwater Basin and water use efficiency. They also had the opportunity to meet the Board of Directors and tour our facilities. Keep an eye out for other upcoming educational opportunities.



Mesa Water Honored with the ACWA Certificate of Excellence

We are proud to announce that Mesa Water is one of the first water districts in the state to be honored with the Association of California Water Agencies' "ACWA Certificate of Excellence," also known as the A.C.E. award, for outstanding achievements in water management. The award recognizes agencies that demonstrate leadership, innovation, and excellence in managing California's most precious resource—water.



MesaWater.org

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Produced by Mesa Water's Board of Directors, **News On Tap** is a bi-monthly publication to inform Mesa Water's customers and community about water issues and events.

BOARD MEETINGS

Mesa Water Board meetings are held the second and fourth Wednesday of each month at 4:30 p.m. at 1965 Placentia Avenue, Costa Mesa, and are open to the public. For more information, call 949.631.1206.

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