

## **Being Prepared For An Emergency**

The following points will allow assist you in being prepared in the event that a leak occurs on your property or within your home.

- Keep the emergency number in a convenient place for easy access.
- Periodically check the shut of valves within your home to ensure that they are in good working condition. If a valve is hard to operate, open and close it with the faucet turned on. Debris can accumulate in the channels of a gate valve and opening and closing the valve will help to flush away this debris and ease operation. All homes with basements should have a valve immediately after the point where the service pipe enters the basement. If a leak occurs in your kitchen or bathroom and the valve under the sink will not close, the valve in the basement can be closed and this will shut off the water supply to the entire house.
- Be aware of the location of the curb stop which is located in your front yard, usually several feet behind the curb or edge of pavement. This valve is accessed by our department in the event that you call for an emergency shut off. Do not plant bushes or install landscaping with mulch and flowers over or around this curb stop. If a major leak occurs in your home and you cannot stop the flow of water with the valves within, precious time will be lost as our service tech deals with these obstacles.
- When purchasing a home, request an as built drawing indicating the location of the water line from the curb stop to the point where it enters your home. If a leak occurs after the curb stop, it is the responsibility of the homeowner to have it repaired. Knowing where the water line is located within your yard can save you time and money and reduce the amount of yard restoration. If you decide to renew the service line from the curb stop to your home, request an as built drawing from the plumber or make a sketch on your own using the house corners or edge of driveway as reference points.