

DRINK SMART—DRINK TAP!



## *The Value of Water:*

# Keeping You Healthy & Safe

We all rely on safe drinking water to brush our teeth, flush toilets, take showers, prepare food and water our gardens. When we turn on the tap and fresh, clean water flows, we can sometimes forget what a valuable resource it is.

Safe, clean water is always on the minds of the city's Water Department. From flushing to routine water quality testing, staff are consistently working to ensure the public receives the highest quality product. Also, without our modern water system and the treatment your drinking water goes through, diseases such as cholera and dysentery would be a part of everyday life.

Our work, along with our partnership with the City of Lake Oswego, means that residents can relax and enjoy a fresh, cold glass of high-quality water from the Clackamas River.

Here are some of the ways our clean water supply benefits the surrounding community.

### **Public Health**

Our first obligation is to provide safe drinking water. We test and monitor water quality every day at various points in the process and the distribution system. We monitor for more than 100 contaminants and must meet close to 90 regulations for water safety and quality. Every year we publish these results in our [Water Quality Report](#).

### **Supporting our economy and quality of life**

A safe water supply is central to the economic success of our community. Public drinking water is critical to the day-to-day operations of businesses within the Tigard community, and to the viability of new commercial enterprises or residential



*Jennifer Joe performs water quality testing.*

developments. Ensuring adequate water supply and delivery systems for today and the future requires careful planning and strategy to ensure that the right pipes, pumps, and storage are in the right place at the right time.

### **Fire safety, protection and dependability**

The water available to flow from fire hydrants is the same water that goes to your home faucets, delivered from the same system of water mains, pumps and storage tanks. A water system that provides reliable water at the right pressure and volume reduces the risks associated with urban fires. The city maintains fire hydrants so that firefighters can count on them when they are needed.

The staff and services provided by the City of Tigard means residents can enjoy the benefits of public health, a high quality of life, fire protection and economic prosperity. It is impossible to put a value on something that is so priceless. ■

## Questions?

*Tigard has the answers!*

### **General Inquiries?**

Public Works  
503-718-2591

### **Your Water Bill?**

Utility Billing  
503-718-2460

### **Water Emergencies?**

Public Works  
503-718-2591

### **After-hours Water Emergencies?**

On-call Service  
503-639-1554

# Meet Our Staff: Zach Sorensen



worker. He worked there for a number of years and then accepted a position with the City of Laramie, Wyoming.

*“All parts of the process must be in harmony to deliver clean, safe drinking water. The process is a balance of treatment, maintenance, and infrastructure. When that balance is not harmonious or it gets off track somehow, then you have problems.”*

From answering billing questions to working on a water main break, Zach Sorensen has worn many hats in his four and a half years working for the City of Tigard. That variety of work is what keeps Zach physically and mentally challenged.

Zach’s career in public works started in high school. He spent time outside the classroom as a temporary worker for the local streets department. From there, he went to college where he worked part-time for the town’s water department. His work ethic was rewarded. Upon graduating from college, the town hired him as a full-time

Along with his day-to-day work, Zach is always looking for opportunities to tell the story of what goes into getting clean, safe drinking water to your taps.

Zach is driven by a commitment to keeping your water system on-track and in your tap. ■

## Protect Your Community Keep Fire Hydrants & Water Meters Clear

As a matter of public safety, homeowners are required to maintain minimum clearance:

- ▶ Three (3) feet surrounding fire hydrants
- ▶ Two (2) feet surrounding water meter boxes

Parked vehicles, overgrown plants, and construction materials can prevent meter readers and emergency responders from accessing hydrants and meters. Proper vegetation management reduces this possibility by allowing responders to operate hydrants and providing meter readers with for maintenance and repair.

Questions? Contact Sam Morrison at 503-718-2600 or [samm@tigard-or.gov](mailto:samm@tigard-or.gov)

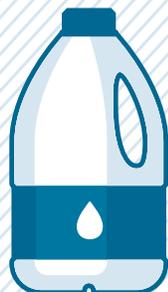
**GET INVOLVED!** The Intergovernmental Water Board consists of representatives from the entities within the Tigard Water Service Area. Public meetings are held on the second Wednesday of each month at 5:30 p.m. in the Tigard Public Works Building Auditorium, 8777 SW Burnham St. in Tigard, Oregon.

## IS YOUR EMERGENCY KIT A DISASTER?

INCLUDE 1 GALLON OF  
**WATER**

PER PERSON PER DAY – *minimum*

People can survive for weeks without food, but only a few days without water. Preparing your emergency kit? There are resources to help.



[www.regionalh2o.org/personal-preparedness](http://www.regionalh2o.org/personal-preparedness)



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