

## Have fun but play it safe when you're outdoors

Summertime is a great time to be outdoors! Particularly so for school age children who have the time to explore new places and try new things. It's important, however, for children to be reminded that good safety practices do not go on summer vacation.

The following are some specific examples where good safety practices may help to insure that this summer is remembered as a really great time.

**When flying a kite or a model plane** that has an attached control line, don't use any metal wires on the kite or plane. Metal conducts electricity and could prove very dangerous. Children should also be warned against flying kites near power lines where electricity could travel right down the string to the person flying the kite. If a kite does get caught in a power line, leave the kite alone. Never fly kites on rainy days, wet strings serve as good conductors of electricity.

**Exploring new places** -- whether it's a view from a tree, a wooded area, a boat marina, or following the train tracks -- exploring requires more than an "eye for adventure."

Encourage your children to: 1/ Check to make sure there are no power lines in the trees before climbing. 2/ Pay attention to any electric lines near boat docks. 3/ Never touch electric wires when standing in water or the body is wet. As for railway tracks -- these should be avoided entirely. Railroad tracks can be dangerous places -- not a place for children to be near. Further, some railroad tracks have a third rail which is used to power electric trains. There is enough electricity in this third rail to badly shock or kill anyone who comes in contact with it.

**Other "off limits" are places where electric power equipment is located. These include transmission towers, substations, and utility poles.** Each of these locations contain electricity that could serious hurt or kill someone. NEVER climb transmission towers, or over or under the fences or gates at a substation. NEVER climb the utility poles or hang anything on the guy wires attached to the poles. And, NEVER shoot or throw anything at wires, insulators or pole transformers! **Teach your children to always play it safe by respecting the power of electricity.**

## Take a look at HBPW's new website

5% rate increase for water usage/customer service charge, and a 3% rate increase for electric usage/customer service charge. The electric rate increase, the first since 1992, is a result of the rising cost of fuel and purchase power. The increase for water will help the utility remain financially healthy during anticipated large capital expenditures.

It is estimated that the average residential customer will see a monthly increase in their water bill of \$.50 or \$6.00 per year. The average residential electric user should see a monthly increase of \$1.15, or \$13.80 per year.

A survey conducted by the American Public Power Association indicates that even with the rate increase, the HBPW's average cost per kWh for all electric customer classes of \$.058 is still significantly lower than that of other Publicly- and Investor-Owned utilities located throughout Michigan.

According to a 2000 Ottawa County Water Rate Survey, the HBPW remains the lowest cost water provider in the county.

# Safeguarding our drinking water

When it comes to the quality of your drinking water, you couldn't pick a better place to live in. The United States is among one of the safest countries regarding drinking water concerns.

The Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) was passed by Congress in 1974, and amended in 1986 and 1996. This legislation established national standards setting limits on the amount of various substances (which could adversely affect our health) allowable in our drinking water.

These standards, known as Maximum Contaminant Levels (MCLs) are applicable to all water systems that provide drinking water to at least 25 persons for at least 60 days. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) periodically reviews and adjusts the MCLs for each regulated substance.

To further ensure water quality, the SDWA requires that public utilities, such as the HBPW implement a regular program of sample collection and laboratory analysis.

Community water systems are required by the Environmental Protection Agency to annually report to customers on the quality of the drinking water being provided. This rule affects 54,000 water systems throughout the U.S., and the information that is contained in these reports reaches some 264 million people nationwide.

## Holland BPW Annual Water Quality Report



How does Holland's drinking water score? As a state certified microbiological laboratory, the Holland BPW's Water Treatment Plant in conjunction with three independent laboratories, conducted over 50,000 tests encompassing more than 200 contaminants during the year 2000.

The HBPW has met its goal of providing quality drinking water that surpassed every federal and state requirement during the year 2000. Results of the tests conducted, along with information regarding contaminants that may be present in untreated water, how your drinking water is treated, and the source of drinking water in the Holland area is available in the Holland BPW's annual Water Quality Report.

For more information regarding Holland's drinking water or for a copy of our latest report, contact the HBPW Water Treatment Plant, 46 North Lakeshore Drive, Holland, MI 49424, or telephone: 616/399.9410.

### COMMON QUESTIONS REGARDING HOLLAND'S DRINKING WATER

**Q. What chemicals are added to Holland's drinking water?**

**A. Chlorine, aluminum sulfate, and fluoride are added to the water. Chlorine serves as a disinfectant, and alum is added to aid in particle removal.**

**Q. Should I buy bottled water?**

**A. You don't need bottled water for health reasons, the HBPW water meets all of the federal drinking water standards. If you want a different tasting water, you can buy bottled water, but it will cost about 1,000 times more. Also, remember that the bottled-water industry is less regulated than municipal drinking water.**

**Q. My water sometimes looks cloudy when I first take it from the faucet. Is it safe to drink?**

**A. Tiny air bubbles similar to those in soda pop cause the cloudiness. This occurs most often in the winter when water is colder. Yes, the water is safe to drink.**

**Q. Why does Holland add fluoride to the water?**

**A. The American Dental Association recommends the addition of small amounts of fluoride to drinking water to aid in the prevention of tooth decay. The amount in your drinking water is at a very safe level.**