

Yreka City Newsletter

Burn Permits

For residents who are planning on burning yard debris on residential property, you will need to obtain a Burn Permit from the City of Yreka. These permits are free and do not expire unless revoked. They are required to be kept at the burn site. Burning is only allowed in 3' x 3' x 3' piles and on permissible burn days. Call the Siskiyou County Air Pollution Control District at (530) 842-8123 to find out if it is a permissible burn day. For residents who are planning on burning on non-residential property or burning plots of grass or weeds, please contact the Siskiyou County Air Pollution Control District to obtain a burn permit from them.



City Website



The City is constantly working to update and improve its website at www.ci.yreka.ca.us. The primary purpose of the City's website is to provide residents, businesses, and visitors with helpful information. If you have a question, check our website to see if you can find the answer. You can also visit our site to learn more about what is happening in the City of Yreka.

Sign Up for Email Updates

Signing up for email updates from the City will keep you informed of changes that might affect you. There are currently two different email updates you can sign up for. The first is a general update for all residents and the second is for businesses.

To sign up, visit the City's website at www.ci.yreka.ca.us and click on the 'Subscribe' link on the homepage. Then enter your email, click continue, and then click the "opt in" option for the email updates you want. To opt out of email updates, simply follow the same process and select the "opt out" option.

Important Numbers

City Hall/
Water Division
(530) 841-2386

Fire Dept
(530) 841-2383

Police Dept
(530) 841-2300

Public Works
(530) 841-2370

Senior Program
(530) 841-2365

Elected Officials

David Simmen
Mayor

Robert Bicego
Mayor Pro Tempore

Bryan Foster
Councilmember

Rory McNeil
Councilmember

John Mercier
Councilmember

Liz Casson
City Clerk

Rhett Hogan
City Treasurer

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New City Attorney

The City of Yreka would like to welcome Dohn Henion as the new contracted City Attorney. He brings 30 years of experience to the City, with almost 20 of those years as a city attorney and county counsel. Mr. Henion, who is based out of Crescent City, California, will travel to Yreka for meetings and when his duties require him to be in Yreka. Mary Frances McHugh, who has been Yreka's City Attorney for the past ten years, accepted a position as the Siskiyou County Superior Court Executive Officer. The City thanks her for her excellent service and wishes her the best of luck in her new position.



Snow Safety Driving Tips

- **Keep windows & mirrors clear of ice & snow.**
- **Make sure tires are properly inflated.**
- **Accelerate slowly when starting.**
- **Allow plenty of room for stopping.**
- **Brake slowly and gently to avoid skidding.**
- **Be cautious overall, particularly when turning.**
- **Be extra cautious on bridges because they freeze first.**
- **Watch for snowplows.**
- **Drive with headlights on.**
- **Be prepared with chains and studded tires.**
- **Check weather reports & road conditions (www.ci.yreka.ca.us).**
- **If you don't have to go somewhere, don't go.**
- **Allow more time if you do have to go.**
- **Keep your vehicle stocked with emergency items such as a flashlight, water, snacks, blankets and a shovel.**

Farewell and Adieu

The Public Works Department had three retirements recently. Randy Horn retired as the Fleet Manager with over 21 years of service. Steve Amaral was a Water Operator and had over 16 years of service. David Peterson was a Maintenance Worker and the Water Meter Reader and worked for the Department for 12 ½ years. We would like to thank these three members of the Public Works team for their combined 50 years of service to the community and we wish them well in their future endeavors. All three were recognized at a City Council meeting and received a Commendation Award from the Council.

Snow Storms of Yreka's Past

Many can recall snow storms when the City has been ambushed by several feet of snow almost overnight. Others may remember the blizzard on January 13, 1950, that shut down all roads out of Yreka and the surrounding area. Bigger tales of snow storms in Yreka date back to the winter of 1861-62, but the first written story of a "big snow" in Yreka was the New Year's storm of 1890. This particular storm swept through Nevada and Northern California with a vengeance, shutting down the whole north state from railroads trapped in snow to mail carriers lost over the Salmon summit from Sawyer's Bar. A snow fall of 18 inches on January 11, 1890, was reported in Yreka as the "greatest snowfall in community history" but in other parts of the state, drifts were seen as high as 20-30 feet. On January 31, 1890, it was reported that the worst of the storm was over.

In December of 1948, the Siskiyou Daily News reprinted a new story of another New Year's Day storm, this one from January 1, 1901. The story called the storm "the biggest snow storm of modern times" for Yreka and Siskiyou County. The snow began on Tuesday, January 1, 1901, at 6 pm and continued until that Friday morning, over 50 hours of continual snow fall. In Yreka and the surrounding areas the snow was 6-7 feet deep and a square foot of snow weighed 16.5 pounds. Business and circulation came to a halt as all focus was on shoveling snow to avoid building collapses. On January 3, the pay was \$1/hour for shoveling snow off of roofs; by January 10, the pay had risen to \$1.50/hour and then jumped to \$2.50/hour that same day. The following day, the paper reported that the storm had finally let up enough to allow for circulation and tales of the big storm of 1901 began.

