

Sources: "America's Families and Living Arrangements: 2003," by J. Fields; U.S. Census Bureau; FMI; Plumbing Manufacturers Institute; and CONTRACTOR

program covers nbing emergencies

BY ROBERT P. MADER OF CONTRACTOR'S STAFF

VOORHEES, N.J. - Independent water utility American Water has introduced the In-Home Plumbing Emergency Program, covering plumbing emergency repairs for leaks or breaks to the water line and clogs or blockages to the sewer line that occur within the home and are caused by normal wear and tear.

The program is available to existing American Water customers and those enrolled in

sewer line protection programs, which cover leaks and breaks in water lines, as well as clogs or blockages in sewer lines running from a home to the street, respectively.

All repairs are performed by local independent plumbing contractors.

The IHPP covers common repairs, including a variety of plumbing emergencies such as a clogged sink, an overflowing toilet, a leaking hot water valve Turn to Utility, page 12

tions; and

 Upwardly mobile ethnic populations who don't want to move to the suburbs but instead stay in touch with their cultures and families.

Basic consumer preferences the company's water and 'such as safety of the commu-

nity, parking availability, and proximity to retail services such as restaurants, banks, drug stores and dry cleaners are important to all these population groups, Ellis said. Differences among the groups, however, will affect the construction industry.

People ages 55 to 65, for example, want an easily managed floor plan for their homes, which typically means a single level, as well as the

Turn to Urban infill, page 46

Weil-McLain and CPSC recall Ultra Series boilers for CO hazard

WASHINGTON --- Weil-McLain and the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission in November announced a voluntary recall of Weil-McLain Ultra Series gas boilers. About 16,000 of the units are in use. The CPSC said that consumers should stop using recalled products immediately unless otherwise instructed.

These boilers were manufactured for use with natural gas but could have a blue tag incor-

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rectly indicating to installers that they are intended for use with liquid propane gas. If an installer connects one of the boilers to LP gas without installing a propane conversion Fxh Morp to Weil-McLain, page 11

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ter prumpting instance, this cusures fresh water is always available.

These combination systems can cost as much as 15% less than stand-alone systems because of the reduced labor, a systems manufacturer said. Since these systems are fed by a home's domestic

I WILL LIGHT LITE ATTACKED IN LITE PRATATION heads. Blake noted that Uponor has a patent on the four-port sprinkler so each sprinkler has water going in or out from four sides with ½-in. PEX tubing. The PEX lines are installed in the ceilings, he explained, and when he needs owners open for electric water maters.

The cause of the Parkside Terrace fire is still undetermined, but Durango Fire Marshal Tom Kaufman believes the fire stemmed from the 1990 Volkswagen Westfalia van's engine overheating in the desert climate.

CONTRACTOR D CRIMINO MILL COMMING walls instead of the standard ½ in.

While there was light smoke damage to the upper two floors of the unit, Kaufman noted that there was no heat damage, Amazingly, Schmeisser slept in her home that very same evening.

Water utility's program covers plumbing emergencies

Continued from page 5

or a leaking washing machine valve.

At a cost of \$3.99 per month to existing water or sewer line protection program customers, the IHPP covers the cost of up to \$1,500 per repair, with no limit on the number of allowable repairs each year. Homeowners pay a \$50 service fee each time an authorized service provider is dispatched to investigate or service the water or sewer line within the home.

The program is available to American Water customers in nine states: Arizona, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Missouri, New Jersey, New York, Ohio and Tennessee. The company expects to launch the program in California, Pennsylvania and Virginia in the coming months. American Water also offers service line protection programs for both water lines and sewer lines to its residential customers.

The combination of the three service programs covers every problem a homeowner might have from the service line, through the water supply and DWV system inside the house to the sewer lateral outside the house, explained American Water Resources

Director of Operations Robert Birdwell. in selected areas. Contractors who are wholly owned unregulated affiliate Resources Claims Manager Bradley of American Water.

network through referrals, inquiries from ucts and services, the company excontractors or solicitation of contractors tends these programs to municipalities by the company so that it has a service through LineSaver. At no cost to the contractor infrastructure in place before it starts soliciting customers, Birdwell said.

American Water Resources has about 130 contractors in its network now. It makes the most sense to use local contractors, Birdwell said, because they know the codes and the inspectors. The contractor must be licensed and the company has high insurance requirements. American Water Resources has quality and workmanship standards and requirements for response times.

The company will pay contractors their customary rates for labor and materials, although Birdwell pointed out that some major repairs will require the homeowner to pay part of the bill.

Some contractors in the network might get only one or two service calls a year, Birdwell said, while others might receive one or two a day.

The company can use a few contractors

American Water Resources is a interested should call American Water Lavite at 618/433-4051.

The company establishes a contractor In addition to the residential prod-

municipality, American Water's Homeowner Services Group fully manages a sewer and water line repair program. The utility will take care of all requirements for developing and implementing the program, establishing a local contractor network and providing customer service.

CONTRACTOR readers pick the year's top products

DES PLAINES, ILL. — A space-saving toilet and boiler were the most popular products of 2006, as determined by CONTRACTOR readers.

Eljer's Titan Triangle Toilet, which plumbers can install in the corner of a bathroom, placed No. 1 in our annual Readers Choice products. Laars' wallmounted condensing Mascot Boiler, which promises high efficiency and versatility in a small package, was our featured Editors Choice product that generated the most interest from readers in 2006.

The top products featured in CON-TRACTOR's monthly Products department in 2006 are featured this month on pages 19 and 20.

Readers determined the rankings of the products in both the Readers Choice and the Editors Choice categories by requesting more information on these products through our Reader Services department. The Readers Choice products were selected from all the products described in CONTRACTOR's Products section in 2006. The Editors Choice products reflect the popularity ranking of the products highlighted in our monthly Editors Choice box from January through October.

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