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News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Foundation issues can be resolved with soaker hoses *Drip irrigation systems also effective against damage*

MURPHY (August 14, 2015) Foundation shifting and cracking, especially in older homes, are problems that can be extremely troubling and possibly financially devastating, says Candy McQuiston, Customer Service Manager.

“The dry, hot weather we’ve been experiencing over the last few weeks can have severely adverse effects on our foundations,” she said. “Shifting and cracking foundations can result from those conditions, especially since our soils do not maintain moisture well.”

The Texas A&M Agri-Life Extension Service advises Murphy homeowners to closely monitor the areas around the foundation of their homes for any cracking or separation. Should these signs appear, a soaker hose or drip irrigation system may be the best way to combat the potentially dangerous condition.

“The effectiveness of a soaker hose has been proven time and time again,” she said. “Available at most hardware stores, the hoses should be placed about eight inches from the foundation and activated slowly. A steady, slow drip will provide sufficient moisture to the foundation.”

Monitoring the effects of the soaker hose or drip irrigation system is still advisable since overwatering can also create major foundation problems.

“As soon as any cracks in the soil and separation from the foundation disappear, residents should turn off the system,” she added. “A visual review of the foundation daily will be necessary to ensure effectiveness.”

Murphy remains in Stage 1 of the water conservation plan, allowing homeowners to water their lawns and landscaping using automatic sprinkler systems twice a week. The City has instituted the honor system for the two-day-a-week schedule, giving residents their choice of the two days in which to use their systems.

Soaker hoses and drip irrigation systems are not subject to the conditions of the water conservation plan. Even so, care should still be taken to ensure there is no waste.

For more information on Murphy’s water conservation plan and ways to conserve water, please visit the Customer Service page on the Murphy website www.murphytx.org.

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ABOUT MURPHY -- Murphy is a fast-growing community located in Collin County. The population is approximately 18,020, generally characterized as highly educated with a median household income above the state average. With more than 70 percent of the land developed, the community is dominated by single-family residences. City planners strive to preserve a country feel while exhibiting an aggressive economic development stance. The centrally-located municipal complex includes four buildings that house Fire, Police, City Administration and Public Works. Money Magazine has dubbed Murphy as the 27th Best Place to Live in America for small cities, and D Magazine placed Murphy as the fifth best suburb in the 2014 list, where it has consistently ranked in the top 10.