

Winter Weather Water Meter Notes

■ Things that benefit you and the District in the fall to prevent freezing in the winter:

- Know where your meter is.
- Mark it with a stake or post.
- Make sure the lid is on tight.
- Cover the pit with an old rug or obtain a mineral tub from the water district office and place it over the meter top to create a dead air space. It also helps to locate the meter in deep snow.
- **Don't put metal over meter lids. It does not allow the radio signal to get out.**

■ Do not put any type of fire or open flame, (such as burning paper, a torch or other flame producing device) in the meter pit to attempt to thaw out the line. Damage to the meter is likely if this is done. Any heat damage to the water meter will be charged to the customer.

■ Just a few simple things and 30 minutes can save you money and the inconvenience of being "frozen up" and out of water for a period of time.

■ The District charges for parts and a service call to repair a frozen meter which can be as much as \$200. Winterize a cabin not being used or if you are away for an extended period of time. Turn the water off in the meter pit and make sure the lid is on tightly when you leave.

■ The first call for a frozen meter is free. If a second call is necessary to the same meter, a charge of \$25.00 and replacement cost or repair of the meter will be assessed if the meter has not been adequately protected.

Our meter reading system can detect any meter not having a zero-consumption hour during the 24 hour period prior to reading. If you think your usage is higher than normal, we will look to see if your meter is one which has been identified as not having had a zero-consumption hour. Should you have a potential leak, the investigation and repair, if any is needed, is your responsibility.

More Notes

■ The monthly bill has a reminder about winter weather and freezing.

■ If you are gone for any extended time, have a competent neighbor check your home and water meter for potential freezing.

■ You can turn the meter off to prevent freezing, drain lines and be prepared for a power outage. If your home is cold enough inside to freeze and split the line, the water will continue to flow. A potential home repair could be prevented by turning the water shutoff or water meter into the "off" position.



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Preparing For Cold Weather

Summer is over, and fall is here. The cold weather of last winter is only a remembrance. The cold temperatures of December, January and February are gone only to likely return in a short time. Cold, wind and snow are enemies



This scene was from last winter. Be prepared to see it again this season.

to your water meter and pipes if you have not prepared for them. If your meter is not properly prepared, damage can occur. Take time now to get ready. Your meter needs protection from cold weather by covering with something that will keep the low temperatures safely at bay.



A plastic mineral tub or plastic trash can with weights can help protect your meter from freezing.

Covering the meter lid with a bale of hay, covered with a mineral tub held in place by a weight, or even a suitable size of carpet weighted with something not metallic will work wonders to prevent freezing of the meter box. Locating the meter pit with a post or stake will enable it to be easily found if snow falls. The lid needs to be tightly placed on the pit and the hay,



Your meter should be plainly marked before cold and snow arrives.

mineral tub or carpet will form a tight air space around the meter to prevent freezing and damage.

"Preparing" Continued

Use of a metal barrel or other metal material prevents the radio signal from the meter getting out and makes your meter unreadable. **Don't cover the meter with a large hay bale.**



A bale of hay on top of a piece of carpet makes an excellent cover for your meter pit. A mineral tub on top of a piece of carpet held securely down with weight also works well.



Going To Be Away?

Should your cold weather schedule include being away for an extended period of time we recommend that you turn off your water in the meter pit, make sure the lid is locked on tightly when you leave. Prepare the meter so that it is winterized properly until your return.

Just dedicating 30 minutes to meter protection can save money and the inconvenience of being "frozen up" and out of water for a period of time. You are responsible for the frozen meter replacement and parts and service call that could be as much as \$200. Without a meter, the water flow is no longer controlled and may cause a high cost of water loss to the consumer. **Winterize!**

How "Meter Freezing" Looks



Your meter pit has a locking lid covering the meter.



This is a meter like the one in your meter pit.



*These meter bottoms have damage resulting from freezing. **The part on the right has a crack between the arrows.** The damages caused huge water losses.*

We all recognize the loss of water through a leak, but we might not realize the potential in water loss. It may be hard to believe, yet it is true, that a 1/4 inch diameter hole leak of water will cause a loss of 13,127 gallons per day. At a cost of 1 penny per gallon, the cost of a leak of that size can amount to more than \$130 per day. A sizeable amount... imagine the cost for 30 days at that rate. A leak of 1/16 inch can amount to a loss of more than \$8 per day.