



What's on Tap

Vision of Tomorrow | Action Today

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2014 Audit Results

Annually the District undergoes a required comprehensive audit which is performed by representatives of the Washington State Auditor's Office. The audit focuses on an array of areas to include the accuracy of financial reporting, how adequately the District is protecting its assets, the degree to which rules and regulations are being followed, and assesses the District's ongoing financial viability.

Unlike a roadside couch, the audit is not free. It involves 280 hours of auditor time and the State of Washington bills the District for that time in an amount approaching \$30,000.

The 2014 audit was completed on September 29, 2015. In line with historical experience, the District once again received a "clean" audit opinion. Put in auditor parlance, the District complied with laws and regulations as well as its own policies and procedures, adequately safeguarded public resources, reported its financial transactions accurately and fairly, and remains financially viable.



Cost Savings Measures

The "Great Recession" and its slow, long-term recovery have seen many of us re-evaluating our financial standing and trend. The District is no exception to this reflective analysis. While the following list isn't exhaustive of the actions taken, these do bear mention:

- 15 staff positions have been completely eliminated and 2 positions have been reduced to part-time since 2009 resulting in annual cost savings of \$1,900,000
- Employee medical benefit program change achieved \$181,000 in annual cost savings
- Refunding of Revenue Bonds (debt) during the low interest rate environment saved \$7,235,000 in future interest costs
- Discontinuing the Fire Hydrant Lock Initiative saved \$300,000 and eliminating a capital improvement project saved \$750,000.
- The favorable audit results noted in the previous article will result in some audit activities occurring every other year versus each year which will save \$3,500 annually.

The Board of Commissioners and staff remain committed to operating the District in a cost effective and efficient manner while maintaining the integrity of our essential duty – to deliver a safe, clean, and reliable water source to the customers we serve.

Holiday Closures

The District offices will be closed Christmas Eve (December 24), Christmas Day (December 25), New Year's Day (January 1) and Martin Luther King Day (January 18)

Wrap Your Tap

Don't let cold weather catch you unprepared. Every winter there are homeowners who face the expense and inconvenience of frozen water pipes. Taking a few precautions before winter hits, can help you avoid this problem.

Disconnect and drain outdoor hoses

Detaching the hose allows water to drain from the faucet. Otherwise, a single hard, overnight freeze can burst either the faucet or the pipe it's connected to.

Insulate exposed pipes and faucets

Outdoor faucets, pipes and pipes in unheated attics, garages and crawl spaces are most vulnerable to freezing. Hardware and building supply stores have good pipe and faucet insulation materials available. In a pinch, wrap pipes and outdoor faucets with a thick layer of newspaper or rags and cover with plastic. You can insulate your water meter by pouring soil around it, just be sure to leave the top of the meter exposed so CWD meter readers can still read it.

Find the Master Meter Shutoff Valve

Be sure everyone in the family knows where it is and how to turn it off. If a pipe bursts anywhere in the house – kitchen, bath, basement or crawl space – this valve will need to be turned off.

What if you wake up one morning and despite your best efforts your pipes are frozen?

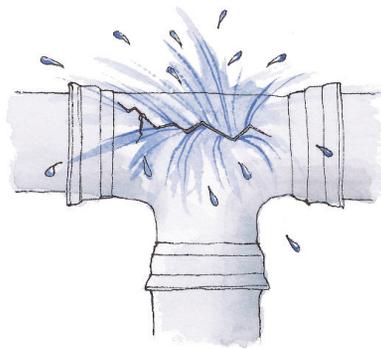
Have your plumber's telephone number handy! If you want to try thawing the pipes yourself, wrap the frozen section with rags or towels and pour hot water over it. NEVER under any circumstances use a torch with an open flame! Besides the danger of catching the surrounding area on fire, the excessive heat can cause your pipes to burst.

Beware that the frozen pipe may already be broken

As soon as it is thawed, water may come gushing out. So shut off the master shutoff valve before you start thawing the pipes to minimize the damage.

Use Caution When Power is Out

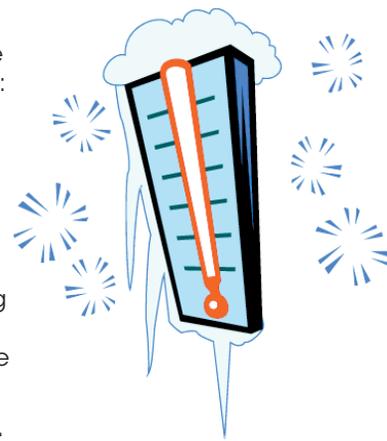
Avoid Carbon Monoxide Poisoning – During a power outage, never use kerosene heaters, generators, grills or other gasoline, propane, or charcoal-burning devices inside your home, garage or carport or near doors, windows or vents. They produce carbon monoxide, an odorless, colorless gas that kills more than 500 Americans each year. If your home is damaged, stay with friends or family or in a shelter.



Winter Storm Preparedness

A little preparation now can save a lot of discomfort or expensive repairs later. Here are some things to consider:

- **Build a Kit.** A catastrophe can impact your ability to access food, water and electricity. A 7-10 day emergency supply kit is a basic tool for providing peace of mind, comfort, and survival needs in the face of a catastrophe.
- **Plan for power outages.** Have a way of lighting and heating your home that does not rely on electricity. **Do not burn charcoal or use a generator indoors.**
- Winterize your vehicle with anti-freeze.
- Winterize your house.
- Drain/blow out irrigation system, insulate exposed pipes and faucets to prevent freezing.



There are many resources available to assist you and your family in preparing for emergencies. The following websites offer detailed information:

- King County Office of Emergency Management
www.kingcounty.gov/safety/prepare
- Take Winter by Storm
www.TakeWinterByStorm.org