

**IDYLLWILD WATER DISTRICT**  
**FEBRUARY 2015 NEWSLETTER**

*IWD Mission Statement: To provide reliable water & sewer service in a safe, cost effective & environmentally sound manner in accordance with the community needs*

California is planning for an ongoing drought, state and federal agencies are putting contingency plans in place and calling for close coordination and ongoing conservation as drought conditions evolve. Early storms have improved California's water outlook only a little. (For current California water conditions: ([www.water.ca.gov/waterconditions/waterconditions.cfm](http://www.water.ca.gov/waterconditions/waterconditions.cfm)) The Idyllwild Water District is currently in Stage Two and if conditions don't improve we will need to declare a Stage Three by summer. In spite of recent rainfall, Foster Lake, which feeds several of our wells, is still dry. Please check our website ([idyllwildwater.net](http://idyllwildwater.net)) for pictures of our well renovations. We must plan for the worst and in response to our local water needs, the District is currently rehabilitating several wells and repairing our horizontal wells. The Oakwood well rehabilitation is now complete. Conditions could be much better and we need your efforts to protect our precious resource. At this time of year a main concern is water loss due to frozen and bursting pipes. As you ready your house for the colder months ahead, don't forget about your water system. When water freezes, it expands. So if the temperature of your pipes drops below 32 degrees, even for a short period, you run the risk of a pipe fracture or worse. Take the following precautions now to avoid a major headache later. We have had several incidents of frozen pipes that have been reported to us.

**Inside Your Home**

Inside your home pipes can freeze! Anywhere cold air blows on a pipe, it creates the potential for freezing. Make sure your pipes are well-insulated and make sure you fill in all the cracks. If your bathroom pipes run along an outside exterior wall, try keeping the door(s) open to allow heat inside or consider using a fan to help circulate the, or purchase a small space heater for some extra temporary heat. Finally, don't turn off the heat completely when you leave home during the winter. Instead, set the temperature to at least 55 degrees F or higher. If you have multiple heat zones, be sure to adjust all thermostats appropriately.

**Outside Your Home**

Outside your home pipes are subject to freezing! Disconnect and store garden hoses. If your home has a separate shut-off for external faucets, turn it off and drain the water from those faucets. Turn off and drain sprinkler systems. Know where your main waterline shut-off is *before* problems arise. Depending on the age of your house, it can be inside a garage, basement or laundry room, or underground in your yard. After turning the water off, turn on faucets to allow the water to drain and release the pressure in your pipes. If you plan to leave your home for an extended period of time, turn off the customer valve at the street. It is vital that all household members learn how to shut off the water at street side customer valve. It may be helpful to label this valve with a tag for easy identification. Make sure all household members know where it is located.

**If You Suspect You Have Frozen Pipes**

You turn on the faucet but nothing comes out, or the water is turned off but you hear rushing water running anyway. This could be a sign that you have a leak somewhere. You should turn off the water lines immediately and investigate. Contact a plumber or other competent individual for advice.

These are some of the many recommendations and procedures to help protect your system. The District has pamphlets that can help you winterize your property.

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*We are updating our records. When the office needs to call a customer regarding a possible leak or other matters, many times the phone has been disconnected. Many of our customers have also switched to cell phones and we don't have those numbers. We would like you to call us with the best contact number and, if you wish, please provide us with an email address in case you are traveling, so we can promptly make contact if any problems are noted. Your updated information can also be emailed to: [jeannine@idyllwildwater.com](mailto:jeannine@idyllwildwater.com).*