

Wildfire Preparedness Efforts by Water District 10

As the California wildfires continue to blaze it's important to understand what your local leadership is doing to best prepare for wildfires in your community. Over the past nine years, the District has immensely enhanced its infrastructure to improve fire safety and response capabilities, especially after the destructive fires in Bastrop and Steiner Ranch in 2011.

Water District 10 made significant strides in improving its fire flow capabilities by completing approximately 20 projects that focus on increasing pipe diameters across various areas in the District. This initiative resulted in higher water availability, including increased water flow for firefighting efforts. Additionally, the District has installed new fire hydrants every 500 feet in many locations, ensuring firefighters have quick access to water during emergencies. The District now has approximately 650 fire hydrants within its boundaries.

A new pump station, operational since 2024, has augmented the water supply with an additional 300,000 gallons of storage, pushing the District's storage capacity to 2.8 million gallons.

The District regularly conducts a thorough fire hydrant survey to identify necessary repairs, leading to an ongoing maintenance program to keep the system in optimal condition.

Recently, District staff took part in a Firewise Safety Planning session, hosted by the City of West Lake Hills and Emergency Services District 9. This training involved virtual tabletop simulations to strategize effective communication and response during wildfire events, including evacuation route planning and resource allocation. The peer-reviewed exercise immensely helped identify and address potential problems that could be encountered in an emergency situation, which is invaluable. Local leadership continues to meet regularly keeping an open dialog to push community safety and needs. This action has benefited the District staff by allowing a direct platform to fast track needs both immediate and future.

Currently, the District is in the design process to replace the system's main water tank and to add an additional tank to further enhance storage capacity to meet peak demand, especially during fires. Part of this process will include the need for the City of West Lake Hills to grant variances for this critical water system upgrade. The District expects installation of the tanks to begin in 2025. The additional tank will add 400,000 gallons of capacity for a total of 3.2 million gallons once in service.

Ongoing engineering efforts focus on meeting the community's needs for water availability, reliability, and storage. It is the steadfast commitment of the Travis County Water District 10 Board of Directors to continue implementing improvements that make sense within our community being mindful of its growth, drought conditions, and fire risks.

Residents are reminded not to activate irrigation systems during fires to preserve water flow for firefighting efforts.

Other Water District 10 News

Customer Resources:

- Monitor your usage and set up leak alerts at **EyeOnWater.com** (you will need your account number to sign up)
- Have a leak? – Leaks between the meter and the home are the responsibility of the homeowner, a plumber of your choice should be called for repair. Water District 10 offers leak allowances for repaired leaks, email customerservice@waterdistrict10.org to get started.
- Leaks between the meter and the street are the responsibility of the District, please report these to Crossroads at (512) 246-1400
- Make sure the phone number stays up to date on your water service account so you don't miss emergency robocalls. You may update your information by calling Crossroads at 512-246-1400 or click **Robo Call Sign Up** on the district's website waterdistrict10.org

Prepare for Freezing Weather



LOCATE YOUR WATER SHUTOFF

Make sure everyone in your residence knows where the homeowner's water main shutoff valve is located and keep it clear of debris and obstacles at all times.

For most homes in our service area, the property owner's shutoff valve is on your side of the water meter located usually 12-18 in from the meter in your own smaller valve box, no special tool is needed to operated this valve. If you are not sure if you have an inside shutoff valve, check the property inspection report from when you purchased your residence. For renters, please consult with your property manager.

KEEP OUT COLD AIR

Tightly close doors and windows to the outside. Make repairs to broken or drafty windows, doors, and walls. Seal all leaks in crawl spaces and basements. Winterize unheated spaces and close garage doors for the duration of the freeze.



EXPOSED PIPES AND WATER HEATERS

Insulate pipes in unheated and drafty areas, such as an attic or garage. Also check manufacturer recommendations for your tanked and tankless water heaters. Hardware and plumbing supply stores carry insulation to help keep pipes from freezing.



OUTSIDE FAUCETS

Turn off outside faucets. Remove all connected hoses and wrap faucets with towels or a Styrofoam insulator. Turn off and drain automatic sprinkler systems.



PREPARE BEFORE LEAVING TOWN

If you plan to be away during a time when freezing temperatures are possible, turn off your water at the meter and set your thermostat to 65 degrees or higher.

EMERGENCY SUPPLIES to have on hand:

- **INSULATION** for indoor and outdoor pipes
- **HOSE BIB COVERS** for outdoor faucets
- Battery powered **RADIO** and **FLASHLIGHT**
- Have enough water for **1 GALLON PER PERSON PER DAY FOR 7 DAYS**

How to contact Water District 10:

Email customerservice@waterdistrict10.org

Phone (512) 327-2230

Website www.waterdistrict10.org