



**BOARD BYLINE – Kevin Williams Board President: Know Who to Call**

Cold weather is a major cause of breaks in our water and sewer mains and pipes. If you see a water, storm or sewer problem – you may be the first to know about it. Call OLWS if you see: a water main; fire hydrant; or a broken water / sewer service line gushing from the street, ground, or manhole; or if you see illegal dumping into a storm drain.

- If you are concerned about water/sewer/illegal dumping, call OLWS at (503) 654-7765.

During leaf season your help will make a big difference. Prevent winter flooding by cleaning your gutters and curbsides regularly to keep the storm drains clear of leaves and sticks. Compost leaves away from the flow of water. In OLWS, Clackamas County provides street sweeping services and takes inquiries about sites with regular drainage problems.

- If a catch basin in the street is completely filled with debris, before flooding occurs call OLWS at (503) 654-7765.
- If you are concerned about a site that floods regularly, contact Clackamas County’s Planning and Zoning – Floodplain Assessment at (503) 742-4500.
- For after-hours flooding help, call Clackamas County Non-Emergency Dispatch at (503) 655-8211, extension 1.

– Feel free to contact OLWS with questions and comments: 503-654-7765.

**You are invited to attend:  
OLWS BOARD MEETINGS!**

All Board Meetings held at:

Oak Lodge Water Services  
Administration Building  
14496 SE River Rd.,  
Oak Grove, OR 97267

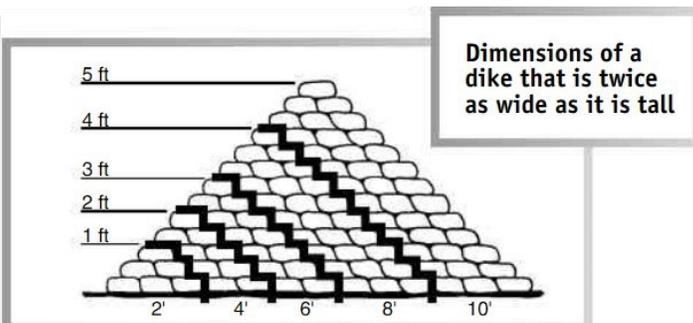
\* NOVEMBER 17 at 6 p.m.

\* DECEMBER 15 at 6 p.m.



**Collect and Freeze Your Grease—Don’t Clog Your Drains**

In the winter, cold weather comfort foods can have more fats and oils in them. Remember to dispose of excess cooking fats, oils, and grease in the garbage – or scrape them into a can and freeze it. When the can is full, throw it in the trash. If you pour fats and oils down the drain, they cool quickly and slowly clog your pipes. Avoid a costly plumber visit by freezing your grease and saving your drain.



**IF YOU NEED SANDBAGS** they are available first come first serve from Clackamas Fire District #1 – Station 4. Located at 6600 SE Lake Road, Milwaukie, OR 97222, sandbags are for residential use only. All sites are self-service – bring your shovel. During flooding events, call ahead to ensure sandbag availability. Call: 503-742-2600.

# Winter Water Protections

When water freezes, it expands about 9%. So if your pipes freeze you might experience leaking pipes after they thaw. Here are some simple measures you can take to avoid that situation:

**Close Crawl Spaces and Vents.** Anywhere cold air blows on a pipe, it creates the potential for freezing. Close the crawl space vents and apply insulation over the openings. Even a tiny hole can let in a lot of cold air.

**Protect outside pipes and faucets.** Check the outside faucets and hose bibs for a separate shut-off valve, and make sure to close the valve to the outside water. Disconnect the garden hose and open the faucets to drain water from the pipe and irrigation systems. Leave the faucets in the open position. Wrap or cover all outside faucets and hose bibs to protect them from the freezing.

**Open the cupboard doors beneath your sinks.** If we experience very, very cold temperatures, or if your home is not well insulated, then opening the cupboard doors beneath your sinks will allow warm air to circulate around the pipes and help keep them from freezing. If you're anticipating a deep freeze, consider using a fan to help circulate the air near the pipes, or purchase a small space heater for some extra temporary heat.

**Allow water to trickle from the faucets.** In extreme or long-term cold spells, allow the water to trickle from your inside faucets to prevent freezing. Over a 24-hour period this will cost less than 15 cents per faucet.

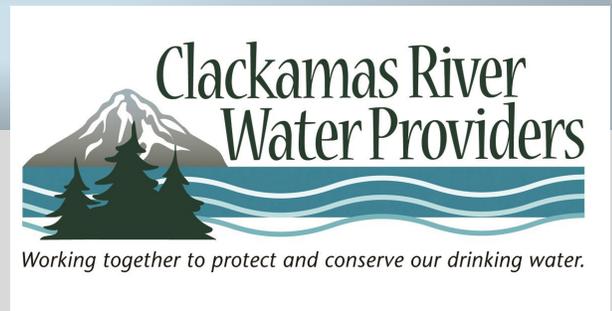
**Never turn off the heat when you leave home for extended periods of time.** During the winter, set the temperature to 55-60 degrees F, and if you have multiple heat zones, be sure to adjust all thermostats appropriately.

**Leaving for the winter?** If you plan to be gone for an extended amount of time this winter call your water provider and have them shut off and lock your water meter. This can prevent excessive water damage if a pipe bursts while you are away.

**Know where the water shut off is to your house.** In an emergency, it's important to know where your home's main water shut off valve is. These main valves are usually located in the garage, or in a crawlspace where the water line enters the house. Identify the valve by tying a colored piece of yarn or string to it and make sure everyone knows how the valve works.

**Have emergency telephone numbers handy.** Keep the number to your local water provider and your plumber posted in a location where everyone can see it in case of an emergency.

For more winter water conservation information and free tools and devices, call the Clackamas River Water Providers at 503-732-3511 or visit our website at [www.clackamasproviders.org](http://www.clackamasproviders.org).



**Riverside Fire & Your Water** The Fires in Clackamas County and the Riverside Fire in particular heavily impacted our residents and staff. We appreciate the hard work and dedication it took for firefighters to get these fires under control and to protect life, safety and property.

In total, the Riverside Fire burned about 23% of our Clackamas watershed. The Forest Service currently has a team of specialists assessing the damage to the watershed, habitat, soils, roads, and identifying measures that will be implemented to protect post-wildfire threats.

As the fires burned the water providers worked hard to make sure you continued to have high quality drinking water from your tap. As it begins raining, expect to see erosion and ash contribute increased levels of turbidity from suspended solids, and nutrients, carbon, and metals in our source water. Your water treatment plant is designed and operated to constantly monitor and remove these constituents in our water, providing clean water to our homes.