

## Are you prepared for cold weather?

With the weather turning cooler and the leaves changing color, now is the time to start preparing for winter. We recommend doing the following to help minimize the impacts of freezing weather or other emergencies:



### Prepare for cold weather

Help keep your pipes from freezing and make sure water is directed where it needs to go:

- Disconnect and drain hoses from outside faucets.
- Cover or wrap outside faucets and foundation vents.
- Insulate pipes in unheated areas.
- Turn off and drain irrigation systems.
- Clear leaves from gutters and storm drains to prevent flooding.
- Locate Washington County sandbag self-serve sand stations near you in the event of flooding.

### Know how to shut off your water

If a water pipe breaks, you need to act quickly to minimize damage. Everyone in your household should know where the shutoff is located before you have an emergency. Look for your shutoff:

- In the crawl space or basement, where your water line enters the home.
- In the garage where your water line enters the wall or ceiling, possibly near a water heater or laundry hookup.
- Outside near the foundation, often protected by a concrete ring or clay pipe.



### **Make sure you and your contacts can be reached in emergencies**

During an emergency, officials need to be able to deliver quick, accurate information and may need to reach your emergency contacts:

- [Update your TVWD contact information](#) so we can alert you about water emergencies.
- Enable your mobile phone with ‘In Case of Emergency’ contacts.
- [Download emergency notification apps](#) for your tablet or phone.
- Add emergency contacts to the [online Oregon DMV tool](#).

### Prepare for power outages

Power outages can have significant impacts on our daily activities. Be sure you are ready if you suddenly lose power:

- Prepare an outage kit that contains flashlights, portable chargers, a hand or battery-powered radio, extra blankets, and emergency food, pet food, water, and first aid supplies.
- Know how to operate electric garage doors manually.
- Use surge protection equipment.
- Create a plan for electric medical devices and refrigerated medicines.

Join us on Wednesday, October 19 for [Talkin' Water: Winter Preparedness](https://tvwd.org/talkinwater). This episode will include simple steps to prepare your home for cold weather, prevent your pipes from freezing, and what you should do if a pipe breaks. We invite you to watch our September Talkin' Water presentation on emergency preparedness at [tvwd.org/talkinwater](https://tvwd.org/talkinwater).



Do you have your emergency supply of water and food, and have taken other steps to prepare for emergencies?

[Click here for past editions of the emergency preparedness tip newsletters.](#)



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