



The newsletter of IRWD

September 2013 | Number 9

## The 411: What You Need to Know About Your Water in an Emergency

**E**mergencies come in all forms, whether they are fires, floods or earthquakes. Any of these could cause disruptions in water service, so it is best to be prepared. In honor of Emergency Preparedness Month, here are the top four things you need to know about your water in an emergency:



**1. CodeRED.** The first step toward preparing for a water emergency is signing up for CodeRED, the IRWD high-volume, high-speed system for mass emergency notifications. Customers have the option of receiving voice, email or text messages whenever there is an emergency. To sign up for CodeRED, visit [www.irwd.com](http://www.irwd.com) and click on "Emergency & CodeRED." From there, click on "CodeRED Community Notification Enrollment Form."

**2. Water Storage.** A supply of stored water may be your most important survival item. Several gallons of stored water per person can last two weeks. Commercially bottled water is one option. Containers of heavy, opaque plastic with screw-on lids are best if you bottle your own water. All stored water should be clearly labeled and replenished every six months.

**3. Boil Water.** After a disaster, tap water may be polluted. Water boiled for five minutes will usually be safe from contamination. If boiling is not an option, strain the water through paper towels, paper coffee filters, or several layers of clean cloth to remove any sediment. Treat the water with household liquid chlorine bleach. Add eight drops of bleach per gallon of clear water, or 16 drops if water is cloudy.

**4. Safe Water.** There are hidden sources of safe water in your home you may use without purifying. Turn off the energy supply to the water heater and let the tank cool. Let air into the tank by opening a hot water faucet, or disconnecting the hot water line at the top of the tank. Open the faucet at the bottom of the tank to drain water into a clean container. Melted ice cubes from your freezer and many canned foods are packed in water, like vegetables and beans. Water from the toilet tank, not the bowl, can be a water source unless chemicals have been added for cleaning purposes.

## What Are They Doing to the Fire Hydrants?

**H**ave you ever been driving in the Irvine area and noticed IRWD workers pouring water from fire hydrants into the streets?

They're not wasting water; they're actually flushing the fire hydrants. The periodic process of flushing fire hydrants is an important preventive activity that maintains the integrity of the water system and helps deliver the highest quality water to our customers.

Flushing the water system on a routine basis removes sediment from lines and keeps the entire distribution system refreshed. The water that is flushed is treated through a special process before flowing into the storm drains.



IRWD workers flush fire hydrants to maintain the integrity of the distribution system.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

Save the Date!

**October 5**  
**9 a.m. – 3 p.m.**

**Landscape Open House**  
South Coast Research  
and Extension Center  
7601 Irvine Blvd., Irvine, CA 92618  
Free admission and parking

**\* Bring this flyer to the IRWD booth  
for a FREE Gardening Tool Kit \***

Talk with experts, view landscapes,  
watch demonstrations and learn  
gardening practices to protect and  
conserve water resources.

# Orange County Great Park Hosts Solar Decathlon 2013 and XPO

October 3–6 and October 10–13



Representatives of the collegiate teams competing in the U.S. Department of Energy Solar Decathlon visited the Orange County Great Park last January in preparation for the event that begins October 3.

The U.S. Department of Energy Solar Decathlon 2013 and XPO is a FREE public event featuring two complementary attractions: the Solar Decathlon, where visitors can tour highly efficient, solar-powered houses designed and built by collegiate teams, and the XPO, an exposition featuring innovative clean energy companies, products, and educational opportunities. Stop by the IRWD booth during the event to learn more about how the District is involved. For more on Solar Decathlon 2013 and XPO, please visit [www.solardecathlon.gov](http://www.solardecathlon.gov) or [www.the-XPO.org](http://www.the-XPO.org).

## Fire Hydrants CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

IRWD maintains some 900 miles of domestic water lines throughout its service area, which includes 331,500 customers. Every fire hydrant and each water main more than 12 inches in diameter is flushed annually. Water mains of less than 12 inches in diameter are cleaned every three years.

During the flushing procedure, residents in the immediate vicinity of the work might experience a temporary discoloration of their water. This is primarily because of harmless silt which does not affect the safety of the water. Crews post signs in the areas in which they are working to help make customers aware of the preventative maintenance activity. If you experience discoloration in your water after crews have been flushing in your neighborhood, clear the pipes in your home by running all of the water faucets for a minute or two.

### Suggested Weekly Fall Irrigation Schedule

Month	Turfgrass	Trees, Shrubs & Ground Cover	% Option <sup>2</sup>
September	4 days, 2 cycles <sup>1</sup> of 3 minutes each	2 days, 2 cycles of 4 minutes each	70%
October	3 days, 2 cycles of 3 minutes each	2 days, 2 cycles of 3 minutes each	50%
November	2 days, 2 cycles of 3 minutes each	1 day, 2 cycles of 4 minutes each	40%

The above chart suggests a weekly schedule for spray-head irrigation, assuming heavy clay soils common to most local coastal and foothill areas. Generally, these are the MAXIMUM times you will need for full sun areas. Your landscape's particular watering times may vary. Start with this schedule and increase the times only if your plants show signs of stress. If stress occurs only in isolated areas, check your irrigation system before increasing the watering time.

<sup>1</sup> By "cycling" the irrigation controller to turn on for the recommended number of minutes an hour apart, deeper watering and healthier root growth are gained, while runoff is reduced.

<sup>2</sup> The % option, either a button or a dial, permits the watering run times for all electric valves managed by a controller to be increased or decreased with just one adjustment by percentage.

## Customer Service Information

IRWD Website Link & Social Media Channels »

### 24 Hour Customer Access

(949) 453-5300  
email: [customerservice@irwd.com](mailto:customerservice@irwd.com)

### Irvine Ranch Water District

15600 Sand Canyon Avenue  
Irvine, California 92618

Visit us: [www.irwd.com](http://www.irwd.com)

 Join our fan page:  
Irvine Ranch Water District

 @IRWDnews  
@AlwaysH2OSmart  
@IRWDemergency

 View our YouTube channel:  
[www.youtube.com/IrvineRanchWD](http://www.youtube.com/IrvineRanchWD)



The mission of Irvine Ranch Water District, a public agency, is to provide reliable, high quality water and sewer service in an efficient, cost effective manner and environmentally sensitive way that provides a high level of customer satisfaction.

### IRWD Board of Directors

Douglas J. Reinhart, President  
Steven E. LaMar, Vice President  
Mary Aileen Matheis  
Peer A. Swan  
John B. Withers

### General Manager

Paul Cook, PE

### IRWD Pipelines Newsletter

Published by Irvine Ranch Water District  
P.O. Box 57000  
Irvine, California 92619-7000

Comments about this publication?  
E-mail: [info@irwd.com](mailto:info@irwd.com)