

# EVERGREEN METROPOLITAN DISTRICT NEWSLETTER



**Hello Residents of Evergreen!**

Friday, January 2, 2026

## **1<sup>st</sup> Quarter Issue:**

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**Evergreen Metropolitan District provides water and wastewater services to the Evergreen community.** If you live in Evergreen or Kittredge, your home may be served by one of three local special districts: Evergreen Metropolitan District (EMD), West Jefferson County Metropolitan District (WJMD), or Kittredge Sanitation and Water District (KSWD). Each district operates its own wastewater treatment plant, while EMD provides water service and handles shared administrative services. All three districts are governed by their own elected Boards of Directors and operate under Colorado state law (Title 32).

## **There's a Leak! Winter Weather Risks to Watch For:**

As winter continues, it's important to stay mindful of the impact cold weather can have on your home. Freezing temperatures can cause pipes and fittings to contract, placing stress on vulnerable areas and increasing the risk of leaks. If pipes are not properly insulated, they may freeze and potentially burst. In addition, fluctuating temperatures can shift soil, creating stress on buried pipes and increasing the likelihood of hidden leaks.



## **Cold Weather Pipe Freeze Prevention Checklist**



Use this checklist to help protect your home and prevent frozen or burst pipes during cold weather.

### **Before Temperatures Drop**

- ☐ Insulate exposed pipes
- ☐ Seal drafts near pipes and exterior walls
- ☐ Disconnect and drain outdoor hoses
- ☐ Shut off and drain exterior faucets (if applicable)
- ☐ Know where your main water shutoff valve is located

### **During Freezing Weather**

- ☐ Keep indoor temperatures steady (minimum 55°F)
- ☐ Open cabinet doors under sinks
- ☐ Let faucets drip slightly during extreme cold
- ☐ Keep garage doors closed if water lines are located inside
- ☐ Check vulnerable areas regularly for drafts, frost, or ice buildup

### **If You're Leaving Town**

- ☐ Set your thermostat no lower than 55°F
- ☐ Have someone check your home during extended absences
- ☐ Consider shutting off your water supply if you'll be gone for an extended period

#### **Evergreen Metropolitan District**

**Customer Service: 303-674-4112**

**After-Hours Emergency: 303-688-7115**

### **Warning Signs of Frozen Pipes**

- ☐ Reduced or no water flow
- ☐ Frost or condensation on exposed pipes
- ☐ Unusual odors from drains
- ☐ Strange sounds when turning on faucets

### **If a Pipe Freezes or Bursts**

- ☐ Turn off the main water supply immediately
- ☐ Open faucets to relieve pressure
- ☐ Apply gentle heat (hair dryer or warm towels — never use an open flame)
- ☐ Contact a licensed plumber

#### **Who to Call for Help**

### **Call Evergreen Metropolitan District (EMD) if:**

- Water issues appear outside your home or near the meter
- You have no water service and suspect a system issue
- You see water in streets or public areas

### **Call a Licensed Plumber if:**

- Pipes inside your home are frozen or have burst
- You have leaks, water damage, or loss of water inside your home
- You need help shutting off or repairing household plumbing

**If an issue arises with a water service line, it is the property owner's responsibility to make repairs.** Evergreen Metropolitan District is responsible for maintaining water mains, but not service lines connected from the main to your home. We encourage customers to routinely monitor these areas to help prevent costly repairs and unnecessary damage. Please remember that just because a leak isn't visible or audible doesn't mean it isn't there—early detection can save both time and money.

## **All About Evergreen Metropolitan District Water:**

Evergreen Metro District (EMD) holds the rights to the surface water that flows from Upper Bear Creek into Evergreen Lake. This water is treated at EMD's water treatment plant and supplies water to the entire Evergreen Metro District community. EMD owns and operates a single water treatment facility, located in downtown Evergreen.

### **Water Quality & Testing:**

EMD conducts monthly water quality testing and publishes an annual *Consumer Confidence Report*. Testing ensures the water meets all standards by monitoring chemicals, bacteria, naturally occurring minerals, and water clarity (turbidity).



### **Water Hardness:**

Evergreen's water is considered slightly hard, with typical hardness levels around 17.1 and 60 mg/L. This falls well within the "slightly hard" range and is not considered problematic for household use.

### **Water Odors:**

Occasionally, customers may notice a musty or earthy odor. This is usually caused by water sitting in household plumbing for an extended period and may be related to algae or fungi. These odors are non-toxic and typically resolve after running cold water briefly.

### **Discolored "Dirty" Water:**

During water main maintenance or hydrant flushing, some customers may experience temporary discoloration. This is usually caused by manganese, a naturally occurring mineral that can be stirred up in the pipes.

*If this occurs:*

- Run **cold water only** from the largest faucet in your home until the water clears (typically about 15 minutes).
- Avoid using hot water or doing laundry until the water runs clear, as discolored water can damage appliances.
- Drinking this water is not a health concern, however the taste may be unpleasant.



EMD regularly flushes hydrants to help minimize mineral buildup in the system.

For more information about Evergreen's water system, please visit [www.evergreenmetro.org](http://www.evergreenmetro.org).

## **Capital Projects:**

Capital projects are long-term infrastructure improvements completed by Evergreen Metropolitan District to maintain safe and reliable water and wastewater services. These projects address evolving state and federal regulations, normal wear and tear on critical facilities, and help ensure the system continues to meet the needs of the community.

Historically, major infrastructure projects were primarily funded through tap fees from new development. As growth in the community has slowed, this source of revenue has declined. To continue investing in and maintaining essential infrastructure, Evergreen Metropolitan District now includes a capital project fee on customer bills. The need to maintain and replace aging infrastructure is ongoing, and this fee helps ensure the long-term reliability and sustainability of the water and wastewater system.

### **Water Projects:**

Several important projects are scheduled to begin in 2026, including improvements to the Evergreen Dam. A 42-inch diameter pipe that runs from the base of the dam to Bear Creek requires a repair. This pipe plays a critical role in safely draining Evergreen Lake during flood events and releasing water for water-rights purposes. Construction is expected to begin in **Spring 2026**.



### **Wastewater Projects – Evergreen Metropolitan District**

*Planned wastewater system improvements include:*

- Biosolids dewatering project
- El Pinal Lift Station mechanical screening addition
- Replacement of biosolids air PVC piping
- Replacement of positive displacement blowers with more energy-efficient models
- Development of a new Evergreen Metropolitan District sewer system model

### **Wastewater Projects – West Jefferson County Metropolitan District**

*Upcoming projects specific to West Jefferson County include:*

- Purchase of a portable generator for the 10th Filing Lift Station to provide power during outages
- Biofilter media replacement
- Biosolids dewatering project
- Headworks gate replacements
- El Rancho #1 Lift Station improvements