



Fern Bluff MUD Q1 2026 Newsletter

In Case Your Pipes Burst

Do you know what to do if your pipes burst during/after a freeze? We recommend that before you call the MUD, that you turn off the water to your home in one of the following ways:

- If the leak is in your home, many houses have a whole house shutoff which may be in the garage, likely near your water softener if you have one. If you don't have or know where the in-home water shutoff valve is, then here are steps in finding and shutting off the water:

Locate your water meter box: it is located by the sidewalk or curb, normally on the same side as your outside water faucet. In corner homes, the meter can also be located at the back corner facing the street.

- Once located, look for a round steel lid (about 6" in diameter) adjacent to the water meter box on the side nearest the house, there you will find your homeowner valve. This is the preferred cutoff point. In our experience, many of these valves have been covered with grass (tapping the ground with a screwdriver or some type of probe can help locate the valve cover). Now is a good time to locate and clean the valve box to be able to operate the valve during an emergency.
- Another valve is located in the water meter box (less desired cut off but available in an emergency), open it with a screwdriver or pliers, and turn the valve on the curb side of the meter clockwise (until the valve stops or the rings come together) using a crescent wrench or curb key.

Important Tips:

- **Do Not Force It:** If the valve is stuck, do not force it, as you may be responsible for damage to the meter, call the MUD office for help.
- **Emergency Contact:** If you cannot turn off the valve, contact the Fern Bluff MUD at our One-Number (512) 238-0606 which is available for emergencies (Option 1).
- Additional information and a how-to video can be found [at this link](#).



MS4 – Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System

The Fern Bluff MUD operates an **MS4 (Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System)**. We maintain a **SWMP (Storm Water Management Plan)** that details our efforts ([Click Here for SWMP](#)) and works to prevent pollution from entering into our creeks, rivers and lakes. The permit covers a span of 5 years, we submit an **Annual Report** ([Click Here for Report](#)) detailing our progress.

Please remember that we are all responsible for keeping our storm sewers clean. **Only rain belongs in drains!** No person shall illegally discharge into the district's storm water drainage system. Violators may be responsible for all costs of repairing or restoring the drainage system as well as subject to a damage fee of \$250.00 per day per violation. This applies to dumping leaves into the system among other pollutants. Please remind your lawn maintenance companies that they need to haul off your leaves, not blow them into the sewer.

Please report illegal dumping into our storm drains by calling the MUD office at (512) 238-0606 or email to customerservice@fernbluffmud.org. For more information on MS4, please visit our website [at this link](#).

Backflow Prevention

Fern Bluff Municipal Utility District consists almost completely of residential connections. The most common contributors to backflow for residential homes are irrigation systems, water softeners, auto-fill pools and garden hoses. Backflow Prevention devices prevent contamination of our potable water and must be inspected every 7 years. For more information on Backflow Prevention Devices and requirements, visit our web page dedicated to this topic [at this link](#).

Winter Wastewater Averaging

Winter Wastewater Averaging ends on February 14th.