Caldwell Municipal Irrigation District

Website: www.cityofcaldwell.org Email: water@cityofcaldwell.org
Hours of operation: M-F 8:00am – 5:00pm
Payment questions: (208)455-3000 option 1
Service or Billing questions: (208)455-3070 option 2
After Hours Emergency number (208)250-1638

General information, FAQ, & Suggestions

- **Irrigation Season Start & End Dates** - Depending upon availability of water, we anticipate receiving irrigation water to our pump stations & turning them On around **April 15th** and will be Shut Off between **October 1st & 15th** of each season. *Customers may experience low pressure or water being on and off for the first couple of weeks while maintenance crews test lines. *CMID will shut the lines off if repairs need to be made, so patience is requested.
- **For Safety's Sake** - The water provided is for **Irrigation Use Only! Under no circumstances should the irrigation water be used as drinking water!**
- **In an EMERGENCY** - **Go to your green irrigation box and close the hand valve. This stops the water!** Closing the hand valve prevents the water from entering your irrigation system. *Shutting off the sprinkler setting in the garage does not stop the water. *If your hand valve is broke and you cannot shut the water off yourself, you may call us to send a service tech out to close our city curbstop valve or isolate the mainline. There is no charge for this service, so please call us to shut off our city curbstop valve – Do Not attempt to do it yourself, if you break it you will be charged to repair it.
- **Line Locates** - of buried irrigation main lines call before you dig. **Call Dig Line at (208)342-1585. Call at least 2 working days before you dig. If You Do Not Call, You are responsible for any and all damages! As per Idaho Codes 55-2201 - 55-2210.**
- **Property Owners** - Are responsible for maintaining & repairing their own service line - this is the line past the curbstop, their own sprinkler system such as sprinkler heads, filters as well as the winterizing of their private sprinkler systems. **Winterizing** – When having your irrigation system blown out in the fall please make sure the company doing it does not close the City's curbstop valve, but instead closes your hand valve. If they close our valve, make sure they open it back up, so that in the spring you can open your hand valve and start watering. *If CMID has to come out and open, our curbstop valve there will be a $15.00 fee added to your next year's bill. CMIDs valve should only be closed in the event of an emergency to isolate your system. If our curbstop valve gets broken, we will have to isolate our mainline leaving many people without water until the repair is complete.
- **Who owns the canals & ditches** – CMID DOES NOT own or control the canals or ditches. These are owned & maintained by various irrigation districts or may be privately owned.
- **Who owns the irrigation pump stations & main irrigation lines** – CMID owns & maintains the irrigation pump stations & main irrigation lines. CMID will make repairs on customers property if a water main line has broken. CMID will not repair a customer's service line.
- **Easement authority of the City** - Article 17 Irrigation Utility (Ord. 2504, 7-6-2004) The city, through its authorized representative bearing proper credentials and identification, shall be permitted at proper and reasonable hours of the day to enter all properties to which irrigation water is furnished from the city irrigation system for testing or for any other purpose necessary for the proper administration of the city irrigation system in accordance with provisions of this article. Also, the city, through its authorized representative bearing proper credentials and identification, shall be permitted to enter all private properties through which the city holds an easement for the purpose of inspection, observation, repair,

maintenance, or any other purpose or function reasonably related to the city irrigation system. All entry and subsequent work, if any, within said easement shall be done in a workmanlike manner.

- **Pounds of pressure** – CMID tries to maintain a 50psi or 9 gallons a minute throughout the irrigation system. Customers should design their system accordingly. (This may fluctuate daily, based on demand).
- **Water rights** – are based on acreage served – 1 minors inch per acre = 9 gallons a minute per acre.

  ***Examples are for comparison use only**

  - ***Water Rights Example:** Subdivision with 106 homes, 35.21 total acres = 3 houses per acre. The water right is 1 minor's inch per acre or 9 gallons per acre per minute. Total acreage is 35.21 acres, which equals 316.89 gallons per minute. (2-3 houses per acre)
  - ***Comparison Example:** If everyone waters at the same time 106 houses X 9 gallons per minute = 954 gallons per minute. This is over pumping the water right and causing high demand, low pressure in the system and pump shut down.
  - ***Example:** If homes are set to water every other day as recommended: 53 houses X 9 gallons per minute is 477 gallons per minute. This is still over pumping the water right. This is why we recommend odd/even watering days and spread throughout the day.
- **Odd/Even watering days** - CMID recommends that customers whose addresses end with an odd number should water on odd days and customers whose addresses end with an even number should water on even days. This is up to the HOA & Residents to manage together. Some types of sprinkler boxes have an odd/even day setting programmed. Select this and set watering times accordingly. It is important that Common Lots follow this schedule as well. (This would help with pressure & keeping pump stations on)
- **Is the City going to enforce Odd or Even watering days?** - NO. The City recommends an odd and even watering day schedule. This is up to the HOA & Residents to manage together. The only way the city could enforce this is to raise the rates and hire more employees.
- **Peak watering times** – 5am – 9am - Consider watering during non-peak hours to reduce the amount of water used and causing low pressure in the system.
- **Why does the pump shut down if we over pump?** The pumps are designed with a float system, so if water falls below a certain level the pump/motor will shut down to prevent damage to the system. Peak hours are 5-9 am. The water right runs 24 hours a day 7 days a week. If everyone sets his or her sprinklers to run at the same time this causes high demand, low pressure and can over pump the water right shutting the system down. To prevent this from happening, users need to adjust their watering times to non-peak hours spread throughout the day/night. You can water during the heat of the day just increase the watering time 5 – 10 minutes. You can water at night just reduce the watering time so fungus does not grow.
- **If pump shuts down During Normal Business Hours** – It will not be a priority to restart the PI if we are working on Domestic/Irrigation leaks, repairs etc. CMID will address it as soon as we have a service tech available.
- **If pump shuts down After Dark – this is considered a Non-Emergency**. If a pump shuts down after dark CMID does not consider this an emergency and will not go out to turn a pump back on. This is for our safety, as some of our stations require us to check head gates etc. CMID will come out in the morning to restart the pump.
- **Overwatering** – Can lead to no root system, fungus and mold growth, dead or splotchy lawn, pooling and mosquito problems.
- **How to prevent overwatering** - First, check your sprinkler settings. Most new homes that have laid new sod are set to water on program A, B and C and come on several times a day, for extended periods of time, and this is fine for new sod, but as it establishes a root system, the watering time should be reduced

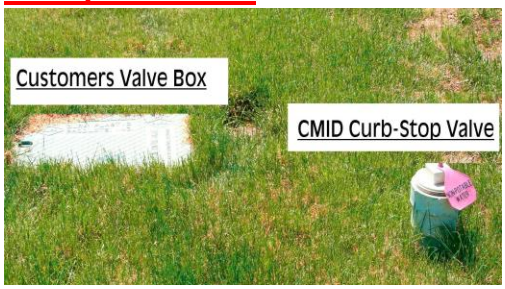
until you reach the every other day recommendation. Most homeowners work so they do not know their system comes on three or four times a day, flooding neighbors etc. Check your sprinkler setting and set your system as needed. Most new homes have the user manual taped to the wall above the sprinkler unit in the garage. If it is not there, locate the model number on the unit, go to the manufacturers' website and download it or visit YouTube for a how to video.

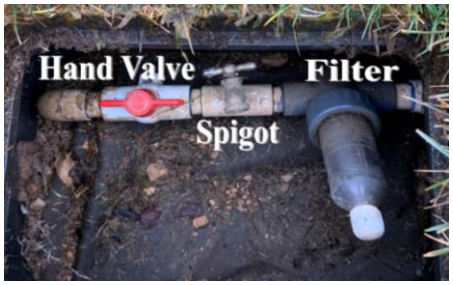
Most sprinkler systems are set up to use more than 9gpm. To learn how many gallons per minute you are using – you can check your sprinkler heads. Most pop ups are 1 -3 gallons and will be marked at the nozzle. Rotary heads usually will say on the nozzle as well.

- **My neighbor is overwatering and flooding my yard. What can I do?** First talk to your neighbor and explain they are overwatering/flooding your yard. Work together to come up with a plan. If the neighbor is resistant to compromise, CMID as a **onetime courtesy** will send out a tech to speak with them and let them know about even/odd watering days. CMID will not shut off their water. If the overwatering persists this will become a civil matter between you and your neighbor. It is your decision if you want to take action against your neighbor. You may call police dispatch at 208-454-7531 and they will send out an officer to look into the problem.
- **Maintenance on your personal irrigation system** - At the start of the season and once a month check your irrigation system. To do this turn your system to the manual setting and press start. Check your sprinkler heads. Make sure that they are not broken, watering the driveway or sidewalk. If so, adjust the sprinkler head. Watch the water. As an example - If you notice water running over the sidewalk and down the curb at 15 minutes then cut the watering time back to 12 minutes. This means your lawn has met its absorption rate, causing excess water to run off. *Check to make sure that the sprinklers that adjoin your lawn with your neighbor's lawn is not pooling and causing standing water. If you notice water is pooling you can reduce the watering time on this station. If you are unable to cut back the time due to the size of yard and or sprinklers on the station, you can replace the sprinkler head with one that puts out one or three gallons per minute. *Check the filters in the sprinkler head itself and clean – this could restrict water flow and can cause dead patches in your yard and/or pooling, in some instances it is easier to remove them all together. *Flush your sprinkler lines – remove a sprinkler head from the furthest point of the water inlet – some yards have the irrigation in the back yard and some will be in the front yard. If the irrigation entry point is in the back yard, you would remove a sprinkler head on either side of your driveway, and if the irrigation entry **were in the front yard, you would** remove a sprinkler head from the furthest point in the back yard. Once you have removed the sprinkler head, manually start station and let the water run until it cleans up, put the sprinkler head back on and run as normal. *Clean your filter. To do this close your hand valve, open the hose bib to bleed off the pressure, then close it and remove the filter housing. Inside the filter housing is a mesh screen (Tip – clean this outside using a scrubber brush/bottle brush) remove this screen and clean it and put it in exactly how it was removed. Bottom of mesh to bottom of filter or opening to opening. If you put it in upside down, it will prevent you from getting irrigation water.
- **Sprinklers stuck on, broken sprinkler head, or cracked filter** – go to the front or back yard where your green irrigation box is located and close your hand valve. It may have a red or blue handle (1/4 turn to close "T", open is in line with the pipe), or it may look like a wheel valve (14 turns to open/close) or a brass ball valve (long handle ¼ push pull method - "T" is closed, in line with the pipe is open). Close your hand valve and open the hose bib to bleed off the pressure, then close the hose bib and wait for the system to decompress. If you hear the sprinkler solenoid shut down, you know the system has decompressed. You can open the hand valve slowly to test if the sprinklers come on again. If the sprinklers come back on, close the hand valve, wait a couple of hours and try again. The cause behind sprinklers sticking on could be a wiring issue, the sprinkler solenoid is bad and needs replaced or it has

dirt/debris stuck in it keeping it from closing all the way. There are many tutorials on YouTube about cleaning/repairing/replacing solenoids.

- **Example Pictures:**





- **Will the City fine for wasting water/water running down the street?** - Malicious Or Willful Waste Of Water: It shall be unlawful for any irrigation water user to waste water or allow it to be wasted by imperfect water stops, valves, leaky pipes, or improper adjustment of sprinklers, or to permit the malicious or willful consumption of water for no beneficial use. The city will make a visual determination of where water has been wasted and shall notify the user of that determination. It shall then be the user's responsibility to make the necessary repairs, or to institute actions that will correct that situation within thirty (30) days of the city's notification to the user. All costs incurred for repairs shall be the responsibility of the user. (Ord. 2504, 7-6-2004)
- **Why do I have to pay an irrigation assessment bill?** The assessment you pay each year is for the tax water right that comes with the property which is regulated by State Code. Most land within the boundaries of CMID is under contractual obligation for the expense of the maintenance of the dams, canals and ditches, as well as the pressurized irrigation system. The pressurized system includes the maintenance of piping, pumps, motors, and electricity. (Ord. 2504, 7-6-2004)
- **What does my irrigation assessment consist of?**
  - Base Assessment: is the fee for the irrigation water.
  - Pressure Assessment: is the fee for the maintenance and electricity of the pressurized pump stations. (an additional fee may be prorated to any properties who exceed 10,000 sq. ft.)
  - Assessment Expense: is the administrative processing fee.
- **What if I don't pay the irrigation tax?** CMID levies an irrigation tax against all lands in the District that are unpaid. Payment is due in full by April 1st of each active year. If past years irrigation amounts are not paid, irrigation water will not be delivered and a $15.00 past due shut off fee will be applied to the account. It is important for you to understand that Idaho Law requires you to pay irrigation taxes just as you are required to pay property taxes. CMID works under Idaho statute title 50-chapter18, 50-1801 -50-1835. If you do not pay your assessment, the District will file a tax lien on your property. If assessments are not paid within three years after recording the delinquency at the County Recorder's Office, Idaho Statue 50-1821 requires the City Clerk of City of Caldwell to issue to the District a tax deed to the property. To avoid the potential loss of title to the property through tax deed sale, the landowner must pay all unpaid liens or assessments. The purchaser of a tax deed at a tax deed sale holds all rights and title that the irrigation district acquired through the assessment and delinquency proceedings. Once the sale is made and a deed of sale is delivered to the purchaser, any further action is between the landowner and the purchaser, not the landowner and the irrigation district.
- **A Board of Corrections** – will be available at the City of Caldwell Water Dept. located at 305 W. Chicago St., March 9th – 11th between 8:30am – 5:00pm, if you need to update any corrections on the irrigation bill.

For additional information, please visit our website: www.cityofcaldwell.org