**01 READING A METER**

**SIMPLE WAYS TO CHECK FOR LEAKS**

Does your water bill seem high? Do you suspect a leak? Here are some ways to check your water meter for billing accuracy or water leaks:

**Where is my water meter?** It’s probably in your front yard, in the grass, near the street, or in the back yard/side yard. Look for a cast iron lid on the ground with the words “water meter.” Remove the lid to expose the meter, which is about 12 inches into the ground. When you finish checking the meter, replace the lid securely.

**What do the dials mean?** The large dial with the red hand shows volume in 1 – 10 gallons. If no water is being used, the leak indicator (small red triangle) should not be moving. If everything is turned off on the property and the triangle is still moving, then a leak may be possible.

**What do the numbers mean?** The first digits on the white background measure water use by 1,000 gallons and are read for billing each month. The black background digits on the right side show the one gallon, 10-gallon, and 100-gallon amounts, which carry over to the next month’s billing.

**How is my meter read?** Simply read the numbers shown on the odometer (this records total water usage) from left to right to take your meter reading. Every turn of a black number measures 1,000 gallons. Every turn of a white number in the first black register measures 100 gallons. The second black register measures in 10 gallons. The “0” at the end is the place holder.

**How do I check for leaks?** Look for dripping faucets, showerheads and fixture connections. Also check for leaks in your irrigation systems and outside spigots. Tighten pipe connections and replace fixtures if necessary. To check for a toilet leak, put a few drops of food coloring in the tank and see if it appears in the toilet bowl before you have flushed.

For help to find or fix a water leak, call a plumber. If you suspect an error in your bill, send an email to Utilities Services at Tulsa311@cityoftulsa.org or call 311.

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**CITY LIFE**

**MAY 2023**

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**02 AVOID FLOODED AREAS**

**MAY IS FLOOD AWARENESS MONTH**

Know your risk of flooding. Where it can rain, it can flood. Everyone is at risk – even those who don’t live close to rivers and creeks. Just because a property has not flooded in the past does not mean that it won’t in the future. Flood risk can change over time. Visit www.floodsmart.gov to find out what you can do about your flood risk.

During a 30-year mortgage, homes located in high-risk flood zones have a 26 percent chance of flooding compared to a 9 percent chance of fire. Most insurance does not cover flood damage. Buy a flood insurance policy to protect your home. Renters can buy contents coverage even if the structure is not insured. Residents in the Tulsa city limits are eligible for a 45-percent discount on policies from the National Flood Insurance Program.

Spring rain can bring severe and sudden flooding. Never walk through flood waters – 6 inches of moving water can sweep you off your feet. Remember the phrase, “Turn Around; Don’t Drown,” and avoid driving through flooded areas, as most flood deaths occur in cars.

Flood risk still exists! Call the City of Tulsa’s Customer Care Center at 311 or (918) 596-7777 to find out the flood hazards on your property and to find out ways to protect your property from flooding. City staff is available to help interpret floodplain maps, explain flood insurance and provide technical assistance.

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**IN THIS EDITION OF CITY LIFE**

**01 BASIC METER READING**

Learn how to read your water meter and check for possible leaks at home.

**02 FLOOD AWARENESS**

Buy flood insurance, know your risk and be prepared for possible flooding.

**03 PREVENT BACKFLOW**

Follow a few simple precautions to protect from backflow.

+ **PLUS: KEEP FATS, OIL, GREASE OUT OF SEWERS.**

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www.cityoftulsa.org | Tulsa311@cityoftulsa.org | CALL 311
04 Public Works Week
Tulsa Participates in Annual Event

Each year, Tulsa joins other cities, counties and states to celebrate National Public Works Week during the third full week of May – May 21-27 in 2023. Public Works Week challenges citizens to think about the role public works plays in creating a great place to live.

Public works professionals are always ready to serve their community with resilience to adapt and thrive in challenging situations. Public works provide many essentials for life in Tulsa all day, every day.

Tulsa residents rely on public works for clean water, dependable sewer service, stormwater drainage and flood control, collection of refuse and recycling, as well as maintained streets, traffic signals, signs and pavement markings. Tulsa public works also include engineering for infrastructure and other projects, maintenance of public buildings, snow and ice removal in winter, and grass mowing in the summer.

Observance of National Public Works week is led by the American Public Works Association (APWA). APWA first celebrated National Public Works Week in 1960. Since then, Public Works Week annually calls attention to the importance of public works in daily life: planning, building, managing and operating vital services for the community.