



INDEPENDENCE
+ UTILITIES +

City of Independence Utilities Newsletter

December 2023: New sensors to help
better treat roads

New road sensors to help Municipal Services better treat, prepare for winter weather

The City of Independence has installed new road sensor technology across the community to help monitor road conditions before and during winter weather.

The seven physical road sensors monitor air temperatures, precipitation levels, grip and pavement and ground temperatures across the City. They also use up-to-date data to provide predictive patterns to the City's Municipal Services Division to plan the best methods of treating roads before or during a winter weather event.

Ten additional virtual sensors will give the City additional coverage across our area using weather models and available weather data. They will also allow for more detailed and specific data, which can be pulled from targeted locations.

The sensors will be used for everything related to winter operations: when to call in staff for plowing, how many staff members will be needed, how much material to use, areas of greater need and when weather is expected to start and stop.

The City of Independence is the only city in the area that is currently using the sensors -- in fact -- the City is among the first in the United States to utilize the technology.

Sensors began being installed in the spring. Funding for them comes from the City's Streets Sales Tax.



Frozen pipe reminders

- Know the location of your master water shut-off valve and educate members of your home about where it is located in the case of an emergency. Typically, these valves are located near your water heater or inside your garage.
 - If you'll be away from home for an extended period of time, shut off your water supply and drain the system. If you plan to be gone for only a few days, set your thermostat high enough so the temperature in your basement will offset a severe temperature drop.
 - If your kitchen or bathroom sink is located against an outside wall, insulate the wall. Make sure pipes in the unheated parts of your home, including crawl spaces, are also insulated.
 - Keep your garage door closed as much as possible.
 - **Never** use antifreeze to keep pipes from freezing. The chemicals could find their way into the water supply and contaminate the system. Not to mention, antifreeze residue is also very difficult to remove from your water pipes.
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Cold weather policy

Since winter has finally made its appearance, we want to remind customers about the cold weather policy for the City of Independence, which is part of City of Independence Ordinance #18374 (10/20/14). This ordinance is designed to protect customers under certain conditions (severe heat or cold) from being disconnected.

Under this ordinance, the City will not disconnect service for any residential customers on any day when the National Weather Service local forecast between 6 and 9 AM for the following 24 hours predicts that the temperature will drop below 32 degrees Fahrenheit.

Please note, there are exceptions to the Weather Rule when there are delinquent disconnections, returned checks, or broken arrangements. If these occur, utility service disconnections may still occur despite weather.

Employee spotlight

This month, we want to spotlight all of our amazing staff.

Thank you for another amazing year! We can't wait to see what you accomplish in 2024.

Do you have a member of our team you want to recognize? Reply to this email with your story and they might be featured next month!



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