

## Highland Water District's "Utility Access Policy"

The water meter is located within a utility right-of-way or easement. Generally, the meter box/service is position against the homeowner's property line. The District is responsible for the maintaining it facilities and equipment to the point of delivery (the service line from the water main thru the meter and/or meter setter, if installed). The customer owns and maintains equipment beyond the point of delivery (after meter/or meter setter).

If the broken pipe is **between the water meter and the street, the District will fix it** because it is a part of Highland's public water system. If the breaks **between the water meter and your house, you are responsible** for repairs. The meter marks the division of public vs. private water systems - anything beyond the meter, including outside and inside piping, fixtures, and appliances, is private.

**The District's property has to be accessible, especially, in an emergency (such as broken main line or service line)!**

**Maintaining the area around water meter boxes and other District apertures (hydrants, blow-offs, air -vacuum assemblies, or PRVs).** The water meter for your property is located within a utility right-of-way or easement, District staff will maintain the meter box area. Since the water meter needs to be accessible by District staff at all times, a 2 foot radius around and a 4 feet clearance above the meter box needs to be maintained for access. Any ground covering around the meter box shall not be greater than 2 inches high. Many homeowners choose to landscape the area of the meter box and therefore need to be aware of the adequate access to the water meter. It is important to keep plants trimmed back and never place items (such as vehicles, boats, garbage cans, recycle bins, firewood, brush, gravel, or landscaping bark) over the water meter.

If any of the District's property is obstructed, the District will send a letter to the homeowner saying that the homeowner needs to provide access to the District's property and has 5 businesses days to remove the obstruction away from District property. If homeowner does not comply with first notice, the District will notify homeowner a second notice giving the homeowner 5 business days to remove obstruction and a \$25.00 fine. If the homeowner does not comply with the second notice, the District will have the obstruction removed from District property at homeowner's expense and also fine homeowner \$50.00. If a vehicle, boat, or trailer are obstructing District property, a Snohomish County Sheriff will be notified to handle the process of removing the vehicle, boat, or trailer from obstructing District property at the



expense of the registered owner of vehicle, boat, or trailer. **Note:** If the property is a rental property, the owner will get the notice(s) and the renter will get a copy of the notice(s).

During meter reading, if District' meter boxes are obstructed and cannot be read. The reading for the property will be estimated. The estimated charge will be adjusted to the highest read of the customer's previous 12 month meter reads. And the above mentioned steps will be taken.

If the homeowner continues to disregard notice(s) and "Utility Access Policy", the District has the right to move District property to a new location at the expense of the homeowner.