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Irvine Ranch
WATER DISTRICT

We Prepare for Fire; You Should Too



Summer marks the start of fire season: a time when heat, dry brush and whipping winds create an incendiary threat to nature, homes and humans.

Irvine Ranch Water District keeps watch to respond to fires and any related loss of power in our service area. We patrol canyon areas and monitor remote operations. It's our job to ensure facilities are protected and that water continues to be delivered to your tap and made available to firefighters battling blazes.

- Pump stations are equipped with automatic backup generators and fuel tanks to keep our water flowing.
- Brush is cleared around remote facilities to protect them from fire.
- IRWD participates in emergency drills with the Water Emergency Response Organization of Orange County.
- We provide immediate emergency alerts to customers via CodeRED, a service available via voice mail, email or text.

Especially if you live in the foothill or canyon areas, you should plan ahead too. Prepare an emergency escape plan with your family—including how to respond to an evacuation order. To receive emergency alerts from IRWD, please sign up for CodeRED at IRWD.com/emergency-codered or call 949-453-5300. Visit ready.gov/wildfires for more tips and precautions.

Protect Your Home by Firescaping

Now is the time to firescape the outside of your home. The National Fire Protection Association offers these fire-safe and water-smart tips to get your yard and landscape in shape:

- Use drought-tolerant, fire-resistant plants such as succulents.
- Maintain trees and remove dead or dying vegetation.
- Keep mulch at a distance from your home and avoid flammable mulches such as pine needles. Consider noncombustible pea gravel or rocks.
- Clear your roof and gutters of dead leaves, and don't let debris and lawn cuttings linger.
- Do not store flammable materials, such as firewood and propane tanks, within five feet of your home.
- Resist the urge to overwater your yard. Check IRWD's irrigation schedule to keep your landscape green and healthy: RightScapeNow.com/landscape-resources/watering-schedules

Save the Date

Composting Workshop

Saturday, July 20
9 a.m. – noon

IRWD
Multi-Purpose Room
15600 Sand Canyon Ave.
Irvine

Join us for a free presentation with University of California Cooperative Extension O.C. Master Gardener Greg Stevenson, a compost expert. He will cover the basics of traditional composting and vermicomposting, using earthworms.

Sign-up required:
RightScapeNow.com/events

IRWD Offices Closed

Independence Day
Thursday, July 4



Water-Wise Fun at Irvine Korean Cultural Festival

IRWD employees love to get out in the community to teach customers how we provide clean, tasty, high-quality drinking water while keeping your public spaces green. Thanks to the Irvine Korean Cultural Festival for hosting us last month in the Irvine Civic Center Piazza. A steady stream of water lovers, such as the boy pictured above, stopped by to spin the IRWD wheel and check out our video, which shows how we transform your used water into drought-proof recycled water for landscape irrigation and other surprising uses. If you missed it at the festival, check out the video at IRWD.com/recycledwater.

Enter Our Where's WaterSense? Contest

June is a water savings month!



About 60% of an average home's water goes toward outdoor watering. Cut your water use with our outdoor rebates (for example: a weather-based irrigation controller). Residential customers can receive up to \$155 per controller for less than an acre, or \$35 per station for more than an acre. Details are at RightScapeNow.com/rebates.

This is the last Where's WaterSense contest this year. Spot the WaterSense logo elsewhere in this *Pipelines* and visit RightScapeNow.com/contest for a chance to win a gift basket of water efficiency devices. The WaterSense label helps you spot products certified to use at least 20% less water. Visit EPA.gov/WaterSense.

Ask Juan



Q: This year's rain has not only been beneficial for my plants—but for the weeds as well. What's the best way to get rid of the weeds without harsh chemicals?

A: The best method that is eco-friendly is to get on your hands and knees and pull the weeds out yourself. Make sure you have the right tools such as a weeding fork, gloves, trowel, loop hoe, and shovel. It can be more time-intensive, but it's worth it. When pulling the weeds, make sure you get the

taproot. With some weeds, just removing the top or the green portion will suffice. It's important to pull weeds before they bloom and spread their seeds. Persistence is important. Keep on top of your weeds as they come out. They are easier to remove when they have just sprouted. After weeding, make sure you have a nice thick layer of mulch to suppress the weeds from growing back.

Got landscape questions? Email AskJuan@IRWD.com or ask on Facebook, Twitter or Instagram with [#irwdcommunity](https://www.instagram.com/irwdcommunity). See past answers at RightScapeNow.com/landscape-resources/ask-juan.

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