

CAMP MEADE RV PARK WATER HYDRANT FREEZE PREVENTION

- Starting in early November, outside temperatures will start to drop to freezing and below. We suggest that you make your RV/ Camper ready for these conditions. To keep your water flowing at your site, you will need to install "Heat Tape" around the water hydrant at your site. You are welcome to utilize your own, or you can have Outdoor Recreation install one of ours. You can also install it yourself. This Outdoor Recreation equipment requires a deposit of \$50.00.
- If you would like for Outdoor Recreation to install one of our Heat Tapes, we need your help to make this a seamless process. Call us and we will schedule a day to install. Please have an available 110V outlet available on the electrical power post and ensure the attached hose or water filter is vertical with the water pipe all the way to the ground, so it will fit under the insulated cover. You may need to attach a short flex hose or extension to the hydrant to make this happen. These items are available for purchase in the camp store. If you do not have an insulated cover and you have corrected your water hose configuration, contact the reservation desk and provide your site # and we will install it.
- You are welcome to add additional insulation to the hydrant, we just ask that you remove your portion when you leave the site. Leave all Outdoor Recreation extension cords, heat tape and covers at the site and inform us when you leave your site. Removal or theft of these items will result in Outdoor Recreation not providing a refund for the deposit.
- Once these items are in place and if the weather report calls for freezing weather, please ensure your fresh water tank is filled and fully disconnect your hose from the hydrant. This means all adaptors, filters, etc. Reconnect your hose when temperatures are above freezing. Reference Memo for "Winter Use" in your check in packet or ask for one at the reservation counter.
- We also suggest that you periodically check for concerns in this area. Such as making sure the heat tape is warm to the touch, the electrical breaker is on and there is not any external water leaks. Always ensure that the small thermostat for the heat tape is located outside the insulated cover.
Report any concerns to our office at 301-677-3810 or 6196.
- These water hydrants are considered frost proof but not freeze proof. Failure to follow this information may result in frozen and damaged pipes which will delay water service to your site for an extended period of time.

Thank you for your cooperation
RV Park Management
301-677-3810 or 6196



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IMME-MWR

15 September 2015

MEMORANDUM FOR Camp Meade RV Park Patrons

SUBJECT: Winter Use Freeze Protection at RV Park Camp Sites

1. This information is provided for you in the interest of preventing damages to water hydrants and personal plumbing equipment when temperatures drop below 35° F.
2. We have received recommendations from our Directorate of Public Works to inform you that the best method to preclude the freezing of our hydrants and your personal property would be to follow below listed guidelines:
 - a. Ensure that your fresh water storage tanks are fully insulated and heated.
(consult your manufacturer to see if they are)
 - b. Fill freshwater storage tanks.
 - c. Disconnect water supply hose from the RV/Camper and the water hydrant when filling is complete.
 - d. Ensure that hydrant is completely closed and water is not dripping.
 - e. If you notice a hydrant dripping, please contact the front office.
For after hour water emergencies (frozen or leaking hydrants) please call American Water at 443-591-0909.
3. Many patrons install an insulated cover, Heat tape and extension cord onto the water hydrant. This is strictly a preventative measure and not meant to keep the hydrant from freezing.
 - a. It is recommended that the patron should check the ground fault outlet on a daily basis to ensure it is not in the tripped/off position, to ensure power to the heat tape.
 - b. It is also recommended that the patron should allow at least one faucet in their camper to be open to a slow trickle to ensure continuous water flow. Only if supply has to be left on.
 - c. Heated water supply hoses and additional insulation around the hydrant pipe and wellhead can also be a good preventative measure. (supplied by patron)
4. Although these methods are highly recommended, the garrison water contractor and Camp Meade's recommendation is to unhook water hoses during freezing temperatures. Heated hoses or heat tape may fail. You may experience power outages. The Installation assumes no liability for damages which may occur as a result of use of the water systems at your site during cold weather.

5. These special hydrants are designed to drain water from the wellhead and pipe when they are turned off and the hose is disconnected from it thus protecting it from freezing. If hoses are left connected or if water is not able to keep flowing, **IT WILL FREEZE AND DAMAGE WILL RESULT**. This could leave you without water for several days and/or the need to relocate to a different site, if available.

6. The point of contact for this information is the undersigned at 301-677-6447.

Steven Orcutt
Manager, Outdoor Recreation

Spending the winter in your RV

Skirting - the best solution would be quilted vinyl material cut to fit generously, with snaps to fasten to the RV sides. Come spring you would simply unsnap, roll up and store until next year.

Holding tanks - Some tanks hang below the floor and between the tandem wheels of trailers and permanent enclosure is not practical. There are heating panels available that you can attach to the tanks that are electrically powered (120v or 12v) or use fiberglass batting to build a "cave" surrounding the tanks and including the dump valves. A small 40 watt light bulb supplies enough heat in any weather to keep things flowing.

Dump Valves - ALWAYS keep your black water valve closed and only dump when full. If left open, the liquids will drain off leaving only the solids (they become very solid after a short period of time). In cold weather we close both valves and dump when full as a trickle of grey water can freeze and build up a dam in the sewer line totally blocking the flow.

Sewer Line - the coiled plastic hoses are best kept in their storage space in the winter. Just one frosty night and they are brittle and full of cracks. Buy 3" PVC solid sewer pipe that has one flared end (\$7.50 for a 10 ft. length), cut a 1 foot length of your plastic hose leaving the trailer connection in place and insert the other end into the flared end of the pipe and tape securely. Cut the pipe with a hacksaw to the correct length to reach your sewer dump and then install an elbow fitting on that end. Insulate the whole thing with fiberglass batting (15" wide will wrap around the pipe nicely) and cover this with poly sheeting taped in place. This all may seem a bit of an inconvenience but try dealing with a 12" long "popsickle" at 20 below zero some night for comparison.

Water Connection - install a heat tape the same length as your hose by taping it to the hose barbershop pole fashion. The instructions say to put the thermostat on the coldest part of the hose, but since that part is not heated it will be sure to freeze. I leave the thermostat just hanging out in the air and have never had a problem using that method. Cover the hose and the heat tape with those insulating foam tubes for pipes and tape securely. Where the water supply enters the trailer wrap some fiberglass batting around the hose, cover with plastic and tape to hold it on. We keep our on-board fresh water tank full just in case all these measures fail. Good luck and pray that you have water in the morning.

Condensation Problems - during extremely cold weather, water vapor will collect and freeze on the cold metal skin directly above your overhead lights where the insulation has been cut away at the factory. When you turn on the lights, the heat generated melts this condensation, causing more grey hairs to appear on your head. Pull off every overhead fixture and stuff the hole in the ceiling panel with insulation.

Roof Vents - make a box 18" X 18" X 12" high to place over every roof vent. Drill three 1" holes in both sides of the box to allow for air circulation. Leave your roof vents open about 1" at all times to vent excess moisture. Tie box helps to keep cold air from cascading down through the vent. Or you can buy the maxi-vent style of vent cover that is permanently mounted on top the roof vent to do the same thing. Try this - it works

Storm Windows - unless you want to view Jack Frost's creations, you should install storm windows of some sort. Ours are sheets of Plexiglas cut to fit each window that install on the inside with plastic L-brackets every foot or so. Foam tape supplies a seal to the window frame. Plastic storm windows that heat shrink into place work well, too, although the tape used can be messy to remove. If left in place all year, the heat in the summer will make them brittle and explode them.

These tips are from experienced winter campers