Water Theft

Iredell Water is serious about protecting our customers from expenses associated with unlawful water consumption. Water thieves indirectly raise the costs for our honest paying customers. Any individual caught trying to manipulate meter data, interfering with how a meter registers, using a meter stolen from another location, bypassing a meter or stealing water from a fire hydrant is subject to an <u>immediate disconnection of service and criminal prosecution.</u>

Fines for tampering with a meter are triple the amount of losses and damages sustained or five hundred dollars ($500.00), whichever is greater for each instance. Tampering with a meter is defined but not limited to manipulating meter data, interfering with how the meter registers, bypassing the meter, turning on water service that has been disconnected or using a stolen meter and criminal prosecution.

Fines for removing locks from a disconnected service are $100 for first offense, $200 for second offense, $300 for third offense, new tap fee for forth offense, plus any cost of any damages that must be repaired and criminal prosecution.

Fines for stealing water from a fire hydrant are $1,000.00 first offense, $2,000 second offense and above and criminal prosecution.

All fines must be paid in full before service will be restored.

How you can help
Anonymous tips from customers are an important means to investigating potential water theft.

If you notice any of the following, it could indicate meter tampering and/or water theft:

> ➢ A person other than an Iredell Water employee working on a meter.

> ➢ Someone bragging about how low their water consumption or water bills are because of by-passing their meter.

> ➢ Any one other than emergency vehicle connected to a fire hydrant without any Iredell Water employee present.

If you notice any suspicious activity or a meter that shows signs of tampering, you may call us at **704-876-0672**. Iredell Water does offer rewards for the conviction of persons committing water theft.