



OSAGE COUNTY RURAL WATER DISTRICT #15
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Tampering With Utilities Is Dangerous

Utility theft – the stealing of electricity, natural gas or water – is dangerous. It affects everyone.

And it's Against the Law

RWD #15 is concerned about your safety and the safety of others. When you tamper with meters or utility lines, you expose yourself and others to a very dangerous situation.

Only trained RWD #15 professionals are authorized to work with water services. Don't put yourself or others at risk

Remember, all usage must be metered, including water taken from fire hydrants. Unauthorized use or theft costs more for everyone in the community with additional repair, investigation, and administrative costs.

Tampering is Dangerous

- When people tamper with utilities, they cause a safety hazard, which could result in personal injury.
- We have discovered that most tampered sites become a safety hazard, putting your family and neighbors in danger. Don't take chances with your safety.

Tampering Affects Everyone

- When people steal service from a utility, they are stealing from everyone, because theft of service could lead to increased rates and fees.

Tampering is Against the Law

- Any type of utility theft is a crime! This includes taking water from fire hydrants without paying for it.
- Up to \$1,000.00 fine/6 months in jail or both could apply.

Report any suspicious activity to RWD #15 at 918-396-2552 or to the police. All calls are confidential.

**RURAL WATER DISTRICT NO. 15
OSAGE COUNTY
METER TAMPERING LAW
TORTS**

§ 23. Public Utilities—Definitions—Fraud—Penalties—Civil Liability-Exemptions

A. As used in this section:

1. “Utility” means any person, firm, corporation, district or association, whether private, municipal, body politic or cooperative, which is engaged in the sale, generation, distribution or delivery of electricity, water or gas:
2. “Person” means any individual, firm, partnership, corporation or association; and
3. “Utility service” means the furnishing, sale, generation, distribution or delivery of electricity, water or gas by a utility as defined herein.

B. IT SHALL BE UNLAWFUL FOR ANY PERSON, WITH INTENT TO DEFRAUD A UTILITY, TO:

1. Alter tamper with, injure or knowingly allow the altering, tampering with or injuring of any pipeline, meter, meter seal, or other equipment used by utility to deliver or register services;
2. Prevent any installed metering devise from registering correctly the quality of service passing through such metering device;
3. Make or cause to be made any connection between any pipeline, meters, or other equipment in such manner as to prevent the correct registration of service by any metering device, or to otherwise use water without the consent of the utility; or
4. Supply or cause to be supplied any utility service to any person without such service first passing through the metering device provided by the utility for measuring and registering the quantity of service.

C. Any person who is convicted of violating the provisions above shall be guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by payment of a fine of not more than One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000.00), or by imprisonment in the county jail for a period not to exceed six (6) months, or by such fine and imprisonment.

D. If a civil action is brought by a utility against a person, said person may post a bond, cash or other security with the utility in an amount equal to the value of the service alleged to be unlawfully used or diverted. Upon posting of said bond or cash, and until final disposition of the case, the utility shall restore to said person any service which it may have terminated.

E. Nothing in this section shall be construed to apply to licensed and certified contractors while performing usual and ordinary service in accordance with recognized standards.

F. This section shall not be construed as repealing any laws of the state relating to the powers, duties or jurisdiction of the Oklahoma Corporation Commission, but shall be held as auxiliary and supplementary thereto.

Laws 1978, c 89, §1, emerg. Eff. March 28, 1978. Section 3 of Laws 1978. C 89, provides for severability. Fraud 68.