



Your source for all things water

Be Ready for freezing weather

South Central Texas is not immune to extreme winter weather and the catastrophe it can cause. We learned that the hard way in February 2021 during record-breaking winter storm Uri. And it's something we don't want to experience again.

Still, emergencies happen. That's why SAWS is always working to make sure these events don't affect your water service in the future.

In addition to our own efforts behind the scenes to make San Antonio's water pipes, pumps and plants more winter-hardy, we've gathered our best tips and tools to help you "Be Ready" to protect your home and property when temperatures dip below freezing.

From how to handle a boil water notice, to which emergency supplies to keep on hand, our resources will help you be ready for the unexpected. It's all available in English and

Spanish at saws.org/BeReady.

"While it rarely gets cold enough to cause harm to pipes in our area, it's important to know the steps you can take to help protect your pipes from freezing or bursting," said Karen Guz, vice president, SAWS Conservation. "Investing a little time or money now can prevent costly plumbing repairs."

The City of San Antonio has a winter weather preparedness guide available in English and Spanish. Visit sanantonio.gov to download the guide and to stay abreast of important winter weather information, like where to find warming centers.

For tips on what to do during a power outage, as well as how to sign up for outage alerts and view a real-time outage map, visit cpsenergy.com.

PREPARE & PROTECT YOUR PIPES

San Antonio Water System | **READY FOR THE UNEXPECTED**

saws.org/BeReady

Get 2023 off to a good start

A new year is an opportunity to start fresh, to right some wrongs, to do things differently. That doesn't just apply to you, but to your property too.

Resolve to show your home and landscape some love! Here's a short and simple checklist to help you get started.

- Keep grease out of your pipes! Learn more at saws.org/pipes.
- It's cool to compost — toss uncooked fresh fruit and veggie scraps into your

green organics cart. Learn more at sa.gov/swmd.

- Plan your landscape upgrade. Visit GardenStyleSA.com for lots of design ideas!
- Save stamps and time — pay your water bill online. It's easy with saws.org/myaccount.
- Look for leaks and waste to keep winter water use low — and to save money on your 2023 sewer bill.

Wishing you a happy and healthy 2023!

Join the MySAWS Conversation:



Event Calendar

San Antonio Stock Show & Rodeo

Feb. 9-26

AT&T Center
3201 E. Houston St.
sarodeo.com

Cinema On Will's Plaza: Annie

Feb. 10

Tobin Center
100 Auditorium Circle
tobincenter.org/cinema

Second Saturday Habitat Clean-Up

Feb. 11

Mitchell Lake Audubon Center
10750 Pleasanton Road
mitchelllake.audubon.org

LibraryPalooza Teen Author Festival

Feb. 25

Brandeis High School
13011 Kyle Seale Parkway
librarypaloozasa.org

Family Morning Hike

March 4

San Antonio Botanical Garden
555 Funston Place
sabot.org

Customer Service and 24-hour Emergency

210-704-SAWS (7297)
saws.org/waternews

Oaks overgrown? This is your chance to prune them safely.

There's not much time left to prune your oak trees this winter, especially if you want to minimize the chance of oak wilt. During the coldest days of the year, the beetles that carry the spores of the oak wilt fungus are very few and unlikely to fly.

Pruning is done for three reasons (in order of importance): safety, tree health and appearance.

Follow these helpful dos and don'ts:

- Prune narrow branch junctions that are V-shaped; these are structurally weak, especially if two or more of the branches are of equal diameters. Long branches that have been repeatedly stripped of their lateral



branches should be shortened or removed completely.

- Look for dead, diseased and dying branches. These are a food source that attract more disease and insects.
- Never cut through the branch collar. This donut-shaped ring at the junction of two branches or trunks is a zone of specialized cells and chemicals that reduces the potential for decay and disease.

Finally, **always paint fresh oak wounds** — this is a must to preventing oak wilt. You don't need to paint the wounds for elm, ash, sycamore, pine, tallow or pecan trees.

Water-themed mural unveiled

San Antonio Water System partnered with the Texas Water Foundation on a new South Side water-themed mural by acclaimed artist Cruz Ortiz. The wall-sized painting was unveiled at 1419 Roosevelt Ave., Dec. 14.

The artwork is the second to be commissioned by the Texas Water Foundation under its statewide Texas Runs on Water campaign, which aims to address the state's growing water supply needs by



inspiring Texans to value water.

"We know that teaching the value of water is critical to helping people conserve it," said Robert R. Puentes, SAWS president/CEO. "Cruz Ortiz has done a great job of illustrating that importance going back to San Antonio's beginnings."

In San Antonio, the Texas Runs on Water campaign celebrates the city's history and its deep connection to water.

Make sure SAWS can reach you

When there's a water emergency, such as low pressure or loss of service, we want to keep you in the loop.

But what happens if SAWS doesn't have your current phone number or email address to contact you? No worries — there's an easy fix for that.

Just log in at saws.org/myaccount and

look for the "Manage Accounts" button in the upper right corner (or main menu on mobile). Select "Mobile Number" or "Email" to enter your updated information. That's it!

No Internet access? No problem. Give us a call at 210-704-SAWS (7297) and we'll be happy to update your contact information for you.