

City of Richland Water System

Tampering Policy

This Tampering Policy establishes policies and costs associated with damaging, disturbing, or interfering with:

- Pipe
- Water meters
- Locks
- Valves
- Cut-offs
- Switches
- Batteries and electronics
- Meter box lid
- Meter box
- Meter Interface Unit (MIU)

or other property belonging to the City, all acts commonly known as "tampering", which is strictly prohibited. This includes, but is not limited to, the misappropriation of water supplied by the City of Richland after service has been stopped. The policies and costs associated with tampering apply to owner occupied property, non-owner-occupied property, homes in foreclosure, or others.

Proof that a meter, pipe, valve, or other attachment has been tampered with or reconnected is presumptive evidence that the customer or user has caused the tampering or reconnecting. It is not necessary to catch a person in the act of tampering or reconnecting.

Fees

- Meter Tampering Fee: tampering of meter in any way to prevent an actual reading or produce a false reading \$200.00
- Tampering Fee: missing or broken lock or lid \$ 50.00
- Tampering Fee: damage to valve top or MIU \$200.00
- Theft of Service Fee: installation of jumper or another device \$200.00
- Tampering Fee: missing Meter and MIU \$350.00

To deter losses in water revenue, service calls and meter repair, any detected water meter tampering will be reported to the police, investigated and, whenever possible, charges filed. Tampering with a water meter is a misdemeanor in Texas and punishable by fine, confinement in jail or both. Individuals responsible for tampering may also incur civil liability and additional fees. Call 903-362-3707 if you suspect someone has been tampering with a water meter.