

OUR TREES AND PLANTS NEED WATER!

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How do we water without a working water main line, sprinkler system, faucets, or power?

It is easy! Follow below for how to water your trees and plants from an Altadena fire survivor whose water main line melted and there is no power to the property. Whether you have a large or small property, this is an easy solution.

First thing to do is call your local water company to check your water main and prepare to turn the water on to your property after you have installed the spigots. Our water main line was melted by the heat of the fire all the way from the water main box at the street to our house so we could not connect any spigots or use any part of the main line. Most water main boxes are underground so they should be functional but need to be inspected by your local water company.

The water company inspected our water main box at the street and said it was ok to connect a temporary water line to water the trees and plants. We then contacted our landscape contractor to install a short line (3 feet) from the water main's box at the street with a double spigot. Then the water company came out to turn the water on with the new double spigot in place, checking to make sure all worked properly. The Water Company (our company is Lincoln Avenue) insisted that a licensed contractor complete the spigot connection work to avoid errors.

We made a simple double spigot for two faucets and selected pvc as the riser material to avoid copper theft. See the images for a reference. With the two spigots ready to attach battery powered irrigation timers, we connected the timers and set them to run for 2-4 hours on the trees and 45 minutes on the plants as needed for a deep soak. We are watering twice a week as the trees and plants are recovering and it has been warm. Water as needed.

After walking the property and measuring how far the hoses had to go to the trees and plants, we purchased a few hundred feet of lightweight stainless steel hoses (Amazon) that will be critter proof. We then connected basic sprinklers to the hoses. We move the sprinklers as often as possible so the trees and plants can recover.

The timers can be set to run early in the morning to lessen evaporation and avoid fungus on the trees (especially the oak trees which do not like warm weather watering or water inside their drip line). Our timers run independently 12-4am on the trees and the 4-5am on the plants. By spacing the run times, the water pressure will be maximized.

It is such a joy to see the birds and other wildlife return to our garden. We also put a few shallow water bowls for the birds and other wildlife. They will fill with fresh water from the sprinklers and we move them with the sprinklers (please make sure to add stones or something that a fledgling bird can hop onto to avoid drowning). Every time we stop by to move the sprinklers, the birds seem to know that water is coming soon and the garden is full of life once again!

