**Take Precautions to Prevent Water Pipes from Freezing**

Frozen pipes in attics, crawl spaces, and exterior walls are a real danger as we approach below-freezing temperatures. They often lead to burst pipes, water damage, and problems with flooding in your home or business. It’s important to know where your water shut off valve is located inside and have it labeled.

**Pipes That Freeze Most Frequently:**

• Pipes that run in and/or against exterior walls that have little or no insulation.

• Pipes that are exposed to severe cold, like outdoor hose bibs, swimming pool supply lines, and water sprinkler lines.

• Water supply pipes in unheated interior areas like attics, garages, inside exterior wall cabinets, under mobile homes, basements, and crawl spaces.

**Tips to help prevent frozen pipes:**

• Keep garage doors closed if there are water supply lines in the garage.

• Disconnect all hoses from the outside hose bibs.

• Open kitchen and bathroom cabinet doors to allow warmer air to circulate around the plumbing. Be sure to move any household chemicals and keep out of the reach of children.

• Consider relocating exposed pipes to provide increased protection from freezing.

• Keep the thermostat set to the same temperature both during the day and at night.

• Add insulation to attics, basements, and crawl spaces. Insulation will maintain higher temperatures in these areas.

• Check around the home for other areas where water supply lines are in unheated areas. Look in the garage, under kitchen and bathroom cabinets, under mobile homes. Both hot and cold-water pipes in these areas should be insulated.

• Consider installing specific products made to insulate water pipes like a "pipe sleeve" or installing "heat tape," "heat cable," or similar materials on exposed water pipes. Newspaper can provide some degree of insulation and protection to exposed pipes – even ¼” of newspaper can provide significant protection in areas that usually do not have frequent or prolonged temperatures below freezing.

**How to thaw frozen pipes and prevent damage as soon as possible:**

• Apply heat to the section of pipe using an electric heating pad wrapped around the pipe, an electric hair dryer, or by wrapping pipes with towels soaked in hot water.

• Apply heat until full water pressure is restored. If you are unable to locate the frozen area, if the frozen area is not accessible, or if you cannot thaw the pipe, call a licensed plumber.

• Check all other faucets in your home to find out if you have additional frozen pipes. If one pipe freezes, others may freeze, too.