

Don't be left out in the cold this winter! Frozen water pipes are inconvenient. Broken water pipes are expensive.

Don't be caught off guard by the sudden surge of frigid weather, with its bone chilling temperatures and biting wind chills. Avoid the hassle of frozen meters and pipes by taking a few simple precautions now!!

- ❁ Turn off outside faucets. Disconnect the hose. If you are going to be away for the winter, turn off the water from inside your house and drain the pipe.
- ❁ Never completely shut off the heat when you are away. If you are planning to leave your home for an extended period of time and you don't drain your pipes, lower the thermostat, but never shut it off. The lack of heat can freeze the pipes in the walls and basement. Freezing bursts the pipes and, when the house warms up, the thawing water will cause flooding and significant damage.
- ❁ Patch any cracks and holes in doors, windows, and walls near pipes. When the temperature drops to near zero, a high wind blowing through a small opening can freeze a nearby pipe, even though the temperature in the room is 70°F.
- ❁ Insulate water meters, pipes, and faucets in unheated areas. Wrap pipes with pipe-insulating material, which is available at hardware stores. Open doors to allow the flow of warmer air into those areas.
- ❁ Allow water to trickle from a faucet would keep the water flowing and prevent an ice blockage from bursting the pipes.