

Prevent Freezing Water Lines

Cold weather and wind chills are here. This means we can expect frozen water pipes and water damage if exposed areas aren't properly insulated or we aren't careful about winter heating. Here are some problem areas, warning signals, and tips to minimize the chance of freezing water pipes.

PROBLEM AREAS

- Pipes near broken or open basement windows
- Unheated crawl spaces and equipment rooms
- Pipes near the foundation or cracks in the basement wall
- Pipes near exterior wall in unheated room
- Inadequate heating in un-insulated or uncovered outside pit
- Pipes under kitchen sinks or cupboards

WARNING SIGNS OF FREEZE

- Unusually cold water temperature (less than 35° F) at any fixture
- Unusually low water flow or low water pressure at a fixture
- Sputtering sound when opening a fixture

THAWING FROZEN PIPES

- It's safest to use hot air from a hair dryer or exhaust from a vacuum cleaner
- Use heat tape, but with caution and following the manufacturer's instructions explicitly, and unplug when finished

PREVENTION

- Allow a small amount of water to run from multiple faucets
- Shut off and drain outside water faucets before freezing occurs
- Insulate walls near exposed piping

CAUTION

- To prevent fires, never thaw with an open flame or torch
- Be careful if pipe is cracked, it will spray water into electrical appliances when thawed
- Check and clear drains to prevent basement flooding in case of pipe burst
- Know where the main shut-off valve is located so you can turn it off quickly in case a pipe bursts

If you need additional information, contact the Greenfield Water Utility at 477-4350.