



## **PREVENTING AND DEALING WITH FROZEN WATER PIPES**

Recent falling temperatures threaten to freeze water pipes and meters. Avoid the disaster of frozen pipes by ensuring your meter stays free of obstruction and is in a heated environment.

### **Preventing pipes from freezing:**

- Insulate any exposed pipes. Be sure to protect pipes with northern exposures, and wrap with UL-approved heat tape. Note: Improper use of heat tape or pipe insulation can cause a fire so be sure to follow the manufacturer's instructions.
- Keep thermostats set to at least 55 degrees if you plan to leave your home for any amount of time or go on vacation. It's also a good idea to have someone check on the home while you are away and make sure it's staying warm enough to prevent pipe freezing.
- If you plan to be away for a long period of time drain and shut off the water system completely, except indoor fire sprinkler systems.
- Open cabinet doors under your kitchen and bathroom sinks to allow the heat inside your house to keep your pipes warmer. Keep basement or crawl space warm enough to prevent freeze-ups.
- Turn on water faucets and allow hot and cold water to trickle at night from sinks inside your home, especially those located on an exterior wall. Note: you may see an increase in your water consumption but this far outweighs the consequences of a frozen meter, water line or burst pipes. .

### **If your pipes Freeze:**

- Make sure you and your family members know how to shut off the water, in case pipes burst. Stopping the flow of water can minimize the damage to your home.
- Never try to thaw a pipe with an open flame or torch.
- Be careful of the potential for electric shock in and around standing water.
- Call a plumber to thaw out, repair or replace the damaged section of pipe as soon as possible.