

# KEEP YOUR MONEY ON ICE

## PREVENT A FROZEN PIPE OR METER

Frozen water meters and water pipes can be expensive to repair or replace. Property owners are responsible for protecting both water pipes and the water meter from damage. Preventing pipes and the water meter from freezing is much easier than trying to thaw them!

### HOW TO PREVENT FROZEN WATER PIPES

#### Make frequent use of your water supply:

- 💧 When the weather is freezing, let the cold water drip from the faucet served by exposed pipes.
- 💧 It's less expensive to run your faucet regularly than for you to repair a frozen or burst pipe.

#### Eliminate cold drafts near water pipes:

- 💧 Tightly close doors and windows to the outside and fill cracks in walls and around windows
- 💧 Eliminate drafts from crawl space.
- 💧 Turn off water connections to garden hose.

#### Adjust your thermostat:

- 💧 Keep the thermostat set to the same temperature both during the day and at night.
- 💧 If you will be going away during cold weather, leave the heat on in your home, set to a temperature no lower than 55° F.

#### Provide warmth to the water pipes:

- 💧 Open the door to the room where the pipes are located to allow warmth to circulate.
- 💧 Place a lighted bulb near water pipes. Never use open flames.
- 💧 Wrap pipes in insulation or heat tape.
- 💧 If your kitchen or bathroom sink is located against an outside wall, insulate the wall. Open the cabinet door below the sink to allow warm air to reach the pipe.

### HOW TO PREVENT FROZEN WATER METERS

- 💧 Follow the previous instruction about preventing frozen water pipes.
- 💧 If your meter is in a separate room, leave the door open to this room to allow warmth to circulate. If your meter is in a cabinet, open the cabinet door. If the meter is in an outdoor pit, check to see that the cover fits properly and that it has no cracks into which cold wind can blow.

### HOW TO THAW FROZEN WATER PIPES

#### The pipes are frozen if no water comes from your faucets when you turn them on.

Your water pipes are more likely to freeze in the basement near the water meter or in pipes nearest an outside wall, door, window, or along the floor.

- 💧 Start by opening a faucet near the frozen pipe to release any vapor from the melting ice. This will also let you know when the water starts flowing again.
- 💧 Begin warming the pipes nearest to the point where you believe the pipe is frozen and work toward the meter or start at the meter and work towards the faucet.
- 💧 Blow warm air on the pipe using a hair dryer. Do not leave the dryer unattended or allow it to overheat.
- 💧 ***Do not use a blowtorch or open flame to warm pipes. This is a fire hazard and could cause an explosion.***
- 💧 Once water has begun to flow again, let a pencil-sized stream of water flow through the faucet until normal heating is restored to the area.
- 💧 Eliminate cold drafts and allow warm air to circulate around the pipes to prevent freezing again.