



Avoiding Frozen Pipes

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The City's Water and Sewer Maintenance Dept. is offering some helpful advice to residents to avoid frozen water pipes. By following a few practical tips, most residents can avoid freezing pipes this winter.

Inside of Building

1. Maintain heat at a minimum of 55 degrees.
2. Avoid cold drafts by the water meter or exposed pipes by replacing broken windows, caulking holes in foundations and window frames.
3. If the water meter is next to the foundation, do not panel over without first insulating that area.
4. If the water meter or piping is in a crawl space or other area where cold temperatures are present, wrap meter and pipes with heat tape.
5. When temperatures are severely cold, run the cold water faucet at a minimal rate to maintain water movement through your piping to prevent freezing.

Outside of Building

1. Change outside faucets so that they are the non-freezing type.
2. If the water service line coming into your building is shallow, (recommended depth is 5 ft.) a plumber, bonded and licensed with the City of Spirit Lake can estimate the cost of lowering your service line.

When A Pipe May Be Frozen

1. Contact a bonded and licensed plumber to properly investigate and thaw the line.
2. If you suspect where the pipe is frozen within your building, a hot air hair dryer can be applied to thaw the pipe, never use a torch or any type of devise with a flame.
3. Contact the City of Spirit Lake Water Department at 1-712-336-2127 or City Hall at 1-712-336-1871 for any questions or concerns