

Avoiding Frozen Pipes

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 1-712-336-2127or City Hall at 1-712-336-1871 for any questions or concerns