

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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City Reminds Property Owners of Precautions for Frozen Pipes

Atchison, KS – City officials are reminding residents and business owners that the current cold snap has the potential to freeze water pipes, leading to property damage. Older homes and mobile homes may be especially susceptible due to inadequate pipe protection and insulation.

To prevent freeze-ups and costly repairs:

1. Turn on faucets to drip rapidly or emit a small stream just about the size of a pencil. Water circulation will normally help prevent frozen pipes.
2. Turn up the thermostat. The additional cost to heat your home may prevent expensive pipe repairs.
3. Open cabinets under sinks to allow warm air to circulate around the pipes.
4. Make sure basement or crawl space has adequate heat to prevent pipes from freezing conditions.
5. Insulating of pipes may prevent freezing. Check with your local plumber or home parts supply shop for more information.

If a freeze up occurs, the following steps are suggested:

1. Check all faucets for flow, especially the bathtub or faucet closest to the water source.
2. **DO NOT use an open flame to thaw pipes.** What's more expensive than water damage from a frozen pipe? A house fire.
3. If you must, use a hair dryer or heat source that has a power source supplied from a Ground Fault Interrupter (GFI) outlet *only*. Never leave it unattended and avoid distractions.
4. **Never open your meter pit yourself.** Not only would this be dangerous and unnecessary, it's also illegal. Utility staff is available to help. Call 913-367-5561 from 8:00am-5:00pm weekdays and 913-367-4323 after hours, holidays, and weekends.

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