

Carol Coles

From: Carol Coles
Sent: Wednesday, December 04, 2013 1:59 PM
To: *everyone; _Council Members; Andy Rieger; Eddie Sims; Jane Cannon; Joy Hampton; Norman News; Oklahoma Daily; OU Nightly
Subject: Winter Weather and Freeze Warning

City of Norman
201 West Gray
Norman, Oklahoma 73069

Press Release

For Immediate Release

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The extremely cold temperatures Norman residents will be experiencing the next few days will cause dozens of frozen water pipes in homes and businesses. Weather forecasts for the next several days call for a continuation of the freezing weather.

The City of Norman advises Norman residents to prepare for the freezing temperatures, if they haven't already done so. To help avoid problems due to frozen water lines here are some tips to follow when the temperature dips below freezing this winter:

- Make sure no pipes are exposed to outside temperatures. Pipes that freeze most often are exposed to severe cold such as outdoor hose bibs, swimming pool supply lines and water sprinkler lines. These areas can be protected by pipe insulation designed for this specific purpose and is sold at most hardware stores.
- Leave interior cupboard doors under sinks open. This is especially important if the water pipes are adjacent to an exterior wall. This will allow heat from the room to reach the pipes.
- Let a thin stream of cold water run from a faucet. The stream should be a continuous flow about the thickness of a pencil. An unheated interior area such as a basement, attic or crawl space can freeze without activity. The flow of water will help prevent these areas from freezing. If the pipes in these areas are exposed it is a good idea to insulate the pipes.

A couple of things you should know if you should become the victim of frozen pipes are:

- Determine where the water shut-off valve is in your house and how to use it in the event the pipes burst as a result of freezing. This may help prevent flooding once the water thaws.
- If you are experiencing flooding and you cannot get the water supply turned off, call the City of Norman Line Maintenance Division to turn the water off at the meter. To contact them between 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m., Monday – Friday, call 329-0703, from 5:00 p.m. – 8:00 a.m. Monday – Friday and on the weekends call 321-1600.