

# VILLAGE UPDATE

*Thursday, December 8, 2016*

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## **IS COMING - BE PREPARED!**

Arctic air is on its way and bringing with it extreme cold and low temperatures. As a homeowner, you need to pay special attention to areas of your house that may be vulnerable to this arctic blast. Pipes can freeze in as little as 24 hours, even with the heat on in the home. Frozen and bursting pipes can cause significant damage. Here are some useful tips to protect your home and property:

- Keep the house heated to a minimum of 18 degrees celsius - temperatures lower than this will not keep the pipes within the walls from freezing.
- During extremely cold temperatures, open hot and cold faucets enough to let them DRIP slowly. This keeps the water in your pipes moving and helps prevent freezing. Also consider leaving cabinet doors open, so your pipes will

be warmed whenever your home's heating system kicks on.

- Identify the location of the main water shut-off in your home - if the access isn't clear consider clearing away the clutter so it will be easily accessible in the event of a plumbing emergency. Then, make sure your shut off valve is in good working order. Cranking it all the way to the right should shut off all water to the house. Make sure everyone in your household knows where the valve is and how to turn it off.
- If you're planning on being away, drain your pipes. Shut off your main water valve, open all taps, and flush all the toilets to make sure there's not water in the tanks.
- Make sure all hoses are disconnected from outside taps / spigots.
- If you discover frozen pipes thaw them immediately - wrap the pipes in towels soaked in boiling water or use air from a hot air dryer to thaw them. If none of these help call a plumber!
- If your pipes burst, first turn off the water and then mop up spills to prevent the water from doing more damage than it already has.



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