

Cold Weather Safety Reminders

Essential measures to minimize the risk of a freeze or water damage loss

- + Keep furnace on and thermostat set at or above 68 degrees
- + Make sure all hoses are removed from exterior water spigots/faucets
- + Drain water lines in lawn sprinkler system where appropriate
- + Inspect windows and repair all broken glass
- + Place additional insulation on exterior walls and windows
- + Insulate exterior doors appropriately, and assure all close and latch completely
- + Attach and secure downspouts with extension from foundation, not draining onto the driveway, sidewalks, or patios and fully displace water from walking areas

During periods of extreme colder temperatures

- + Open the indoor faucets slightly to allow water to trickle as moving water does not freeze as easily
- + Leave the doors to cabinets that contain water lines open, this will allow heat to enter the area and help prevent freeze
- + If the power goes out, note the time of the outage and have a plan to keep perishable food cold. Potentially hazardous foods, including meat, dairy, eggs, and cooked vegetables need to be stored at or below 41 degrees Fahrenheit.
- + Have a plan in place if you are without power and heat for extended amount of time

Additional safety measures during colder months

- + Clear all necessary snow and ice from sidewalks, fire escapes, and walkways which may result in a slip and fall hazard
- + Use fireplace, wood stoves, or other combustion heaters only if they are properly vented to the outside. Exercise caution when heating with these devices, as well as propane appliances, and older wall or floor gas furnaces.
- + Never use a charcoal or gas grill indoors—the fumes are deadly.
- + Check that you have a working carbon monoxide detector.
- + Keep as much heat as possible inside your property. Check the temperature in your home often during severely cold weather.