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PRESS RELEASE

Winter Weather Preparedness

With cold weather we haven't seen in over a decade and multiple days of freezing temperatures, it's important to take steps to protect people, pets, and pipes.

PROTECT PEOPLE:

- Keep warm, stay inside if possible. Dress in warm layers, wear hats and gloves and an appropriate coat.
- avoid overexertion; cold weather puts added strain on the body.
- Observe heater safety: never place space heater on top of furniture or near water; keep heat sources at least (3) feet away from furniture and drapes.
- Never leave children unattended near a space heater.
- Install a battery-operated CO detector to protect individuals from carbon monoxide (CO) poisoning.
- Do not heat enclosed area with oven, generators, grills, camp stoves, or similar devices.

PROTECT PIPES:

- Wrap exposed faucets and pipes outside the house or unheated crawl spaces, attics, garages and other areas. Use a towel or rug and duct tap or foam pipe coverings.
- Let the indoor faucets drip
- Open cabinets below sinks to allow heat circulation around water pipes.
- Cover vents around the foundation.
- Drain and store water hoses indoor.
- Protect outdoor electrical pumps.
- Drain swimming pool circulation systems or continue running pump motor in short freeze. Running the motor for extended periods of time can damage the motor.
- Drain water sprinkler lines.
- Know where your home shut-off valve is and how to turn it on and off.
- If you leave town, consider turning off your water at the shut-off valve while faucets are running to drain your pipes.
- If you drain your pipes, contact the electric or gas company for instructions on protecting your water heater.

PROTECT PETS:

- Provide proper shelter for your pet. Even indoor pets should have their bed or crate away from drafts.
- Outdoor pet shelters should be well insulated and wind and waterproof resistant. Elevate off the ground to prevent moisture from seeping in. Install a door flap to protect against drafts and wind gusts. Provide extra blankets or straw for added pet warmth.