DATE

**For more information, contact:**

*Utility Contact Name*

*Position*

*Email*

*Phone*

**“WINTER IS COMING”: PROTECT YOUR WATER PIPES FROM FREEZING**

As temperatures drop, it is important to be prepared for the effect of cold weather on your water pipes. Preparation means knowing how to prevent pipes from freezing as well as knowing what to do if pipes do freeze or burst in your home.

As the water in your pipes freeze, the water expands and puts pressure on the pipes causing them to burst. The pipes most at risk are those in unheated interior spaces such as basements, attics, and garages.

Help protect your pipes from damage by following these recommendations.

* Add pipe insulation to attics, basements, and crawl spaces. Pipe insulation can cost as little as 50 cents per linear foot at your local hardware store.
* Keep garage doors closed, especially if there are water supply lines in the garage.
* Seal all air leaks that may let an icy blast reach your pipes.
* Disconnect, drain, and store garden hoses. A frozen garden hose that is connected to an interior pipe can increase pressure throughout the whole plumbing system causing damage.
* During freezing temperatures, open kitchen and bathroom cabinet doors to allow warmer air to circulate the plumbing, especially if your sinks are on an exterior wall (if you have small children or pets, be sure to remove any harmful cleaners and household chemicals).
* Keep the thermostat set to the same temperature during the day and night. If you plan to be away during cold weather, leave the heat on in your home no lower than 55 degrees Fahrenheit.
* Find Your Main Water Cut-off Valve. Look for this now! Imagine the panic, if water was pouring through the house from a broken pipe. Locate the main water cut-off valve, mark it, and make sure everyone in the house knows where it is. Most main water cut-off valves are located on the wall where the water enters the house.

In the event of a burst pipe, shut off your main water valve and call a licensed plumber immediately. [Insert Utility] is responsible for water mains and all connections up to your water meter, notpipes located on your property. Keep your pipes protected this winter and prevent the cold weather from damaging your pipes and your home! For more information visit, [insert utility website]

**About the Virginia Section of American Water Works Association**

VA AWWA is a section of the American Water Works Association (AWWA), an international nonprofit scientific and educational society dedicated to the improvement of drinking water quality and supply. Founded in 1881, AWWA is the largest organization of water supply professionals in the world. Its more than 50,000 members represent the full spectrum of the drinking water community.

**[Insert company boilerplate]**

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