



# *Weathering the Winter*



Preventing frozen  
and broken pipes





**Icy winds and sub-freezing temperatures can do a lot of damage to your home or business by freezing pipes and leaving you without running water.**

## Here are some tips to help cope with cold weather:

- \* **Insulate all pipes** located in unheated areas, such as the garage and garden areas. Inexpensive foam insulation is available at most home-improvement stores.
- \* **Have your yard sprinklers** and backflow preventer drained and winterized. Be sure to wrap the backflow preventer with insulating material.
- \* **Disconnect** outside hoses, wrap faucets and cover them with plastic or faucet covers.
- \* **Cover crawl space vents** when temperatures dip below freezing. REMEMBER TO UNCOVER VENTS when the weather warms up.
- \* **At 20 degrees or less**, turn on a small but steady stream of cold water at the inside faucet furthest from the water meter. Also, open cabinet doors below the sink to let warm air circulate around water pipes.



## If your pipes freeze:

- \* **If your pipes freeze** and you know where the frozen spot is, wrap the pipe with warm towels.
- \* **NEVER use a flame** or hair dryer to thaw frozen pipes.
- \* **If your pipes break**, shut off your water using the hand valve. If you cannot get the water turned off, call for assistance (*see contact information on the back of this brochure*).



**If you plan to be away for an extended period this winter, prepare your home by:**

❄️ **Turning off the water main** to the house. If you can't find or don't have a hand valve, call your utility. We'll come out and turn the water off for you.



❄️ **Once the line is turned off, drain** the pipes by flushing toilets and running water through faucets. Make sure to turn off your water heater at the breaker.



**EWEB**  
**(Eugene Water & Electric Board)**

541-685-7000  
[www.eweb.org](http://www.eweb.org)

**Rainbow Water District**

541-746-1676  
[www.rwdonline.net](http://www.rwdonline.net)

**SUB**  
**(Springfield Utility Board)**

541-746-8451  
[www.subutil.com](http://www.subutil.com)