

Cold weather tips!

1. Disconnect and drain outdoor hoses and faucets. Disconnecting the hose allows water to drain from the pipe and prevent freezing. A single over-night freeze can burst either the faucet or the pipes it is connected to.
2. Insulate pipes and faucets in unheated areas. If you have pipes in unheated garages or crawl spaces, wrap the pipes before the temperature drops. Check with your local hardware store or building supply store for the best wrapping material for your needs.
3. Seal off access doors, air vents and cracks. Repair broken windows and poor sealing basement windows or doors. Winter winds will find overlooked openings and can quickly freeze exposed water pipes.
4. Find your "Master Valve". If a pipe breaks anywhere in your home, you'll want to know where the "Master Valve" is located. Knowing where it is can save valuable time in an emergency.
5. Outside meter settings. Muhlenberg Township Authority customers are responsible for maintaining the safety of the water meter from freezing or other damage. If your meter is in a meter pit in front of your home, the meter pit and it's maintenance are the responsibility of the homeowner. Proper maintenance or repairs will insure the safety of your meter. If you're not sure of the location of your meter, please contact the Authority Office at (610) 929-4709.

What to do if it's too late!

If you think you know where the freeze-up is and you want to try to thaw it yourself, here are a few tips....

- 1) Never use a torch or open flame. Overheating a single spot can cause the pipe to burst. Heating a soldered joint could cause the joint to come apart completely.
- 2) Try a hair dryer on a low heat setting. Most the warm air back and forth along the pipes, not all at one spot.
- 3) Try wrapping towels or rags around the pipe pour hot water over them. It's messy, but it works.

- 4) Be careful because the pipes may already be broken. They may not be leaking because they are frozen, but when they thaw you could have water gushing out. Be ready to Turn off the "Master Valve".

Always remember, it's best to take the necessary precautions before winter sets in!