

East Cedar Creek FWSD News Letter

P.O. Box 309 Mabank, TX 75147 903.887.7103 FAX.887.4299

December 2016

Tips to assist in freeze prevention of water line plumbing

Colder temperatures are here and the potential risk of water line freeze-up is always a nuisance and at times very costly.

Some things you may consider to assist in lessening your risk of water plumbing freeze up are:

Exterior Plumbing

- Remove garden hoses, drain and store for next season.
- Turn-off outside hose bib connections and install a hose-bib freeze protector cover.
- Other exposed valves and fittings wrap with insulation and secure with weather resistant covering such as a layer of plastic and duct tape to hold in place.
- For under homes with crawl spaces such as mobile homes wrap a heat tape around piping and follow the manufacture's instructions for installation. Be sure the heat tape is plugged into a reliable power source.

Interior plumbing

- Open base cabinet doors under kitchen and bathroom sinks to lessen risk of freeze-up of small water supply lines.
- Place a floor fan near opened cabinet doors to assist in circulating warmer air to the area where small water lines are located.
- Some home owners have even used a mechanic's trouble light under sinks to assist in providing additional warmth by the heat off the 100 watt bulb.

Do the Math

If you allow your inside sink faucets to flow water constantly at a very low flow, a confirmed dripping flow, this will reduce the risk of water line freeze-up during severe cold weather conditions. Water in motion has a less risk of freezing but the water must have enough flow to insure constant flow. A fairly rapid drip will waste approximately 15 to 20 gallons per day. If you were to choose two faucets in your home in different location of your home to flow the approximate 20 gallons per day this would be a total of 40 gallons per day added to your water bill or 40 gallons per day times 31 days in a month for a total of 1,240 gallons added to your water bill. The district's water rate per 1,000 gallons does not exceed \$4.26 per 1,000 gallons. Therefore the approximate cost for the additional 1,240 gallons for reducing the risk of freeze-up would cost \$5.28.

If by chance your water lines would freeze during extended days of severe freezing temperatures the inconvenience can be very stressful not to mention the agony of not knowing whether the water lines have ruptured and leaks will be present once the water lines unthaw. If a water leak does occur, one would hope you are present to turn off your customer water shut-off valve to reduce the amount of water registered through your water meter. If the thawed water line is located inside the home plumbing flooding may occur and your insurance company may need to be contacted. If you are very handy and repairs can be made it is still a hassle and trips to the hardware store may be your future. If a plumber is called it is not uncommon to see a fee of \$50.00 or higher for a service.

We hope this would never occur but thought you may be interested in cost comparisons of how to assist in the prevention of potential costly repairs by adding just \$5.28 to your water bill during extreme cold temperatures.

Call Before you Dig East Cedar Creek is not a member of Dig Tess / Texas 811. Texas law does require contractors, residents or any other type of individual who is excavating underground projects to call in for line locates. Once this 811 call is made for line locates you must also call our office for water and sewer line locates. The majority of the time local home owners are more at risk for cutting phone cables, water and sewer lines. Please call us so we can help you prevent costly repairs that may be expensed to you due to you not calling in a line locate. **Our Office number is (903) 887-7103** and we do log in line locates and initiate a work order for crews to respond and mark our lines.