



URGENT WARNING FOR HOMEOWNERS: FRIGID TEMPS AND HIGH WINDS A POTENTIALLY COSTLY HAZARD

Freezing and bursting pipes can cost homeowners thousands of dollars in repairs and can lead to more serious problems such as mold if not properly repaired. Although older homes are most susceptible to freezing pipes, poorly insulated newer homes are also at risk.

According to plumbing experts at Monona Plumbing and Fire Protection, there are some things homeowners can do to help reduce the risk of freezing pipes, including:

1. Open cabinet doors to allow warm air to access pipes that run along outside walls.
2. Keep a trickle of water flowing in habitual trouble areas during extreme temperatures.
3. Properly insulate and seal air leaks near water supplies.
4. Wrap exposed pipes with heat tape; especially where external plumbing supplies are eminent, like those on trailer homes.
5. Seal any air leaks – wind is a major contributor to freezing pipes.
6. Turn off valves that supply outdoor faucets and water supplies – don't simply rely on frostless water spigot!

***** In situations where a frozen pipe isn't detected in time, a ruptured pipe can occur*****

If you plan to leave your home for the winter months or for an extended vacation, consider closing the main water shut off valve before you leave. If your pipes were to freeze and break while the main shut off valve is closed, the damage caused by the ruptured pipe would be minimal compared to the astronomical damage left by a fully pressurized pipe.

The experts at Monona Plumbing and Fire Protection warn homeowners to use precaution when faced with frozen pipes. Director of Plumbing Services Dennis Hilsenhoff states, "Many homeowners turn to extreme measures when looking to quickly defrost pipes. But the use of improper equipment, such as torches, is a fire hazard and should be avoided." Instead, Hilsenhoff suggest turning to professionals who have the experience and proper equipment to thaw and repair the damages safely.

Monona Plumbing and Fire Protection maintains the largest 24 hour plumbing service department in Dane County and provides services for residential, commercial, municipal and institutional sectors throughout South Central Wisconsin and Northern Illinois. For additional information about Monona Plumbing and Fire Protection or how to prevent freezing pipes, please contact Dennis Hilsenhoff at 608-273-4556 x 229 or dhilz@mononapfp.com.

