



For Immediate Release
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Contact: Mary-Hope Vass, Public Information Officer
540.432.8931
MaryHope.Vass@HarrisonburgVA.gov

Residents Reminded of Important Tips for Cold Weather

Harrisonburg, Va. – With extremely cold temperatures moving through the area, the city of Harrisonburg is reminding residents of important tips to stay safe through this cold winter spell.

Cold weather can be challenging and it is critical for residents to protect themselves and their homes. Every winter, many residents face the inconvenience and unexpected expense of frozen water pipes. Below are some simple precautions to take to avoid this from happening.

1. Insulate pipes or faucets in unheated areas. If you have pipelines in an unheated garage or cold crawl space under the house, wrap the water pipes. Hardware or building supply stores will have good pipe wrapping materials available.
2. Seal off access doors, air vents, and cracks. Repair broken basement windows. Winter winds blowing through openings can quickly freeze exposed water pipes; however, don't plug air vents for the furnace or water heater.
3. Find the master water shutoff, which may be near the water heater or the washing machine. If a pipe bursts anywhere in the house, the master shutoff valve turns off the water. Hang a bright tag on it and make sure everyone in the home knows where it is and what it does.
4. If you suspect that the outdoor meter box is frozen, contact Harrisonburg's Public Utilities Department at 540-434-9959 for an inspection.
5. It is a good idea to leave a very small stream of water flowing from a bathroom faucet during an extremely cold spell. Running water lessens the chance of the pipes freezing.

Additional tips on preventing your home's pipes from freezing can be found at www.HarrisonburgVA.gov/winter-safety.

The City of Harrisonburg is centrally located in the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia. It is home to almost 55,000 people. More information about the City of Harrisonburg is online at www.HarrisonburgVA.gov.



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