



## **WINTER TIPS TO PREVENT FROZEN PIPES**

**Eliminate drafts.** Check around the home for areas where water supply lines are located in unheated areas and take measures to prevent the flow of cold air in these areas. Look in the basement, crawl space, attic, garage and under kitchen and bathroom cabinets. Both hot and cold water pipes in these areas should be insulated. A hot water supply line can freeze just as a cold water supply line can if water is not running through the pipe and the water temperature becomes cold.

**If a water pipe freezes, never try to thaw it with an open flame or torch.** Try heating the space where the pipes are frozen and call a plumber, but always be careful of the potential for electric shock in and around standing water.

**If you will be away from your home, keep the thermostat at a reasonable temperature** to make sure all areas with water pipes are kept above freezing.

**If you suspect you have a frozen water meter,** call Vineland Municipal Water Utility for help. Service crews are available 24 hours a day and will respond as soon as possible.

**Business hours** 856-794 4056

**After hours:** 856-794-4280

**If you are vacating your home because you have lost your heat source,** locate and turn off your main water cutoff valve. You can also call us to request that we shut off the water at the curb.

After the valve is turned off, open a faucet on each level of your home to allow for expansion should the un-drained water freeze.

**If you are staying in your home or will be monitoring your home frequently,** allow a faucet to drip cold water slowly. At a minimum, the dripping faucet should be the one that is the greatest distance from your main water cutoff valve.

Consider allowing a slow drip in areas that are least protected from the cold (basements, crawl spaces, attics, and garages).

### **Getting Help**

**If the pipe breaks,** quickly shut off the water valve near or before your water meter, if you haven't already done so. Then call a plumber. They have the know-how to correctly fix the break.