



Village Hall
206 N. Walnut Avenue
Princeville, Illinois 61559
(309) 385-4765

FROZEN WATER PIPES & METERS:

BE PREPARED: Be sure all family members know how to shut off the water into your home. Shut-off valves are usually located near the water meter. The water meter is a beige-colored device located on the water line into the home. There is a valve on either side of the meter that can be used to shut off water. Be sure the shut-off valves are easy to operate, so that water can be turned off quickly in case of an emergency.

PREVENTION:

- Seal off any cracks that admit drafts to the basement, garage or crawl space containing water pipes or your water meter.
- Keep all doors and windows tightly shut at all times and make adequate heating available to these areas.
- Insulate all exposed water pipes, using pipe insulation or even several layers of newspaper.

WHAT TO DO IF YOUR PIPES BECOME FROZEN:

IF THERE IS NO WATER ANYWHERE IN YOUR HOUSE check for the following:

- **Frozen Meter** – Run your hands over the meter and see if it feels exceptionally cold or shows signs of leakage or damage. If so, call the Water Department and we will replace the meter, at your expense, after the pipes have been thawed. Village Ordinance: 13.12.010
- **Frozen Pipe**, either just before or just after the meter – Run your hands over the exposed pipes near your meter and see if any section feels exceptionally cold or shows signs of leakage or damage. If you can locate a cold spot, carefully apply heat from an electric heater, hair dryer or heating pad to the chilled area until the ice thaws. **DO NOT USE DIRECT FLAME OR BOILING WATER. THIS CAN BREAK THE PIPE!**
- **Frozen Water Service Line** – This is the pipe that carries water from the public main in the street to your house. If this line is frozen, it will have to be thawed. If it is between the back of the curb stop and your house, it is your responsibility and requires the services of a plumber at your expense. (Permanent prevention of this problem requires lowering of your service pipe below the frost line)

IF THERE IS WATER IN PART OF THE HOUSE, the frozen pipe is inside your home, if you can pinpoint the location you may be able to thaw it using an electric heater, hair dryer or heating pad on the nearest exposed portion of the pipe. For instance, for a bathroom or kitchen sink, apply heat to the pipes at the point where they emerge from the wall. Leave cabinet doors open under the kitchen or bathroom sink to let warm air in. If that doesn't work, call your plumber.

CAUTION: Please be careful when using electric appliances to thaw pipes. Be sure the thawing is done by an adult, being careful to avoid electric shock or fire hazards.

Village of Princeville Water Department

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After Hours Contact: (309)678-4151