

DENNIS FIRE DEPARTMENT

883 ROUTE 28 West Dennis, MA 02670

WINTER SAFETY HANDOUT

FROZEN PIPES

STEPS TO PREVENT FROZEN PIPES

- Make sure both hot and cold pipes are dripping slowly
- Open cabinet doors to allow heat to get to insulated areas
- Do not set thermostat below 55 degrees
- Keep doors ajar between heated and unheated rooms
- Have your heating system checked and serviced

Going away for a period of time?

Shut off and drain your system,--this may disable a home sprinkler system.

Ask neighbor or friend to check house daily

Long-term solutions

- Insulate pipes in your homes crawl space or attic
- Seal leaks that allow cold air to enter
- Mark water shut off valves ahead of time

IF YOUR PIPES FREEZE

-If no water comes out of faucets, leave open and call a plumber.

-If your pipes freeze shut off water at main shut off valve

THAWING OUT FROZEN PIPES

Shut off water at main shut off and open faucet nearest to frozen pipes so it can drain as it thaws

-NEVER - use a torch or open flame to thaw a pipe.

-CAUTION- Do Not use electrical appliances in areas of water due to possible electric shock hazard

-DO-

- Use the warm air from a hair dryer, starting as close to the faucet as possible
- Wrap a; length of pipe with a heating pad
- Use a heat lamp (keep at least eight inches from the surface)
- Wrap pipe in rags and pour boiling water on it
- Once the pipes are clear, turnoff all faucets and check for leaks in the pipes.