During cold weather months the Chicago Department of Water Management (DWM) encourages residents to make sure pipes in homes are properly insulated and not exposed to freezing air.

**SPECIFICALLY, HOMEOWNERS SHOULD:**

- Maintain proper heat in their homes; particularly in basement crawl spaces or closets that house a water service.
- Insulate pipes, particularly those outside or on the perimeter of the residence.
- Run a trickle of cold water on each floor of the home at the points furthest from the location of the main water service into the home.
- Make sure that there is warm air circulating in any area where there are water pipes. This includes garages and unheated areas of the home.
- Remove all garden hoses from hose bibbs, cover the bibbs with Styrofoam hose bibb insulating caps and shut off control valves for hose bibbs.
- Make sure there are no broken windows or other sources to allow cold winter air to enter.

**IF PIPES FREEZE, DO NOT THAW THEM USING CANDLES OR ANY OPEN FLAME.**
**INSTEAD PLEASE USE A HAIR DRYER OR HEATING PAD.**