



# PRESS RELEASE

Manitowoc Public Utilities ! 1303 S. 8th Street, P.O. Box 1090 ! Manitowoc, WI 54221-1090 ! 920-686-4304 ! fax: 920-686-4348

## For Immediate Release

**Date:** January 30, 2019  
**Contact:** Daniel W. Salm  
**Phone:** 920-686-4304  
**Fax:** 920-686-4348

**Fax to:**  
WOMT Radio [news@womtradio.com](mailto:news@womtradio.com)  
WCUB Radio [blundberg@cubradio.com](mailto:blundberg@cubradio.com)  
HTR Newspaper [htrnews@htrnews.com](mailto:htrnews@htrnews.com)

## Prevent Frozen Water Pipes

As bitter cold temperatures hit Wisconsin this week, frozen water pipes could cause a maintenance disaster for home owners.

When water freezes inside pipes, the expansion of the ice will cause pipes to break, resulting in flooding, and repair expense. The following tips might help homeowners avoid costly repairs:

- Keep heat in basements, crawl spaces, and utility closets. Open interior doors to allow heat to circulate to unheated areas.
- If you use heat tapes in trailer homes or homes without basements, make sure they are plugged in and functional.
- Look for drafts from doors not fully closed or broken windows in basements.
- Insulate basement sill boxes and other areas where water pipes are located.
- Open kitchen and bathroom sink cabinet doors to allow heat to get to pipes on outside walls
- Exterior faucets should have a separate shut-off valve in your basement. Make sure the inside valve is "off".
- Know where your main water shut-off is located, so if there is a problem, you can shut off water quickly.

As the weather warms, be on the lookout for leaks. A frozen pipe might not leak, but when the ice thaws broken pipes will begin leaking. Pay particular attention to outside faucets.

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