

November 15, 2019

TO: SISC Member Districts
FROM: Safety & Loss Control Staff
SUBJECT: Water Damage Due to Freezing

Many SISC member districts experience water damage during the winter because of freezing conditions. The purpose of this Update is to provide you with some quick tips and reminders to help prevent your district from becoming a victim of the freezing months.

When the temperature falls below 30°F, especially if it falls below 30°F for several days in a row, the following recommendations will help reduce water damage losses. Additionally, it would be prudent for you to have a designated person check buildings for water damage after a weekend, a holiday, or when a facility is closed for other reasons for an extended period of time.

OUTSIDE AREAS

Large Plumbing Areas: Examples of large plumbing areas are water mains, water pumps, and landscape sprinkler controls. They should be boxed or framed and filled with sawdust or a non-compacted insulation.

Exterior Water Lines: Exterior water lines that serve drinking fountains and evaporative cooler should have insulation where feasible or should be shut off.

INSIDE AREAS

Attic Areas: Even though the building may have good insulation, many times the plumbing runs above the insulation. For buildings or rooms that fall into this category, there are two alternatives. You can either insulate the pipe or keep the heat on at a reduced temperature, but high enough to keep the pipes from freezing.

Walls of Older Buildings: Many times the water pipes are located in the walls but the walls have never been insulated. In these cases, keep the heat on at a reduced temperature, but high enough to keep the pipes from freezing. This will also help protect uninsulated pipes located in the attic.

Tips to Prevent Frozen Pipes

- Insulate all exposed pipes.
- Set heat no lower than 55 degrees Fahrenheit.
- Open cabinet doors under sinks.
- Disconnect garden hoses.

Once a pipe ruptures, extensive water damage can occur in a very short amount of time. A little extra effort along with the minimal expense of insulation can go a long way in protecting the district's buildings and property.

Please contact your SISC Safety representative at (661) 636-4604 should you have any questions involving this concern.