

TIME TO WINTERIZE!

Below are important steps to help ensure you are prepared for a freeze.

Prevent Plumbing Freezes

- Disconnect and drain garden hoses. If you have shutoff valves for your hose spigots in your house, don't forget to turn them off.
- Insulate/wrap any exposed plumbing. Insulated covers can be purchased at Lowe's or Home Depot.
- Drip interior faucets that are on exterior walls and open cabinets.
- If you have a sprinkler system and know how to winterize it please do so. Not all systems will need to be winterized. If you are unsure, please check with your irrigation company. If you have any above ground piping, you will need to wrap it.
- If you have a pool, keep the pump running to avoid freezing pipes/lines, and reach out to your pool company for advice regarding your system specifically.

Smoke Detectors & Carbon Monoxide Detectors

- Test your detectors to make sure they work. Replace batteries if needed. Not all properties will have Carbon Monoxide Detectors, but be sure to check all.

Have an Emergency Kit Ready

- **Battery-powered flashlight** – to use in a power outage
- **Portable phone charger** – use your phone to follow updates on twitter or local government websites
- **Drinking water** – a good rule of thumb is a gallon per person per day for a week
- **Canned and other non-perishable food items** – granola bars, dried fruit, jerky, etc.
- **First aid kit**
- **Candles** – if the power goes out from damaged transmission lines, it's helpful to have slow burning candles on hand. As with any fire, be careful!
- **Extra Blanks or Sleeping Bags** – if the power goes out, you probably won't be able to use your central heater which can cause your indoor temperature to plummet.
- **Extra batteries**
- **Water Shut Off Key** – something every homeowner should have, use it to shut off water to your home in case of a broken pipe, or use it to drain the water in your pipes to avoid any breaks.
- **Shovel**
- **Ice scraper**
- **Car charger and jumper cables**

Extra Handy Tips

- Do not use your oven as a heating tool. This is a fire hazard and can also release harmful gases into your home.
- Keep your fireplace clean. This will prevent buildup and blockage and is essential to winterize your home.