

POLICY FOR PREVENTION OF FROZEN WATER AND SEWER SERVICE LINES

This policy is written to clarify responsibilities and procedures prior to and in the event of a frozen water and/or sanitary sewer service line.

Responsibilities:

1. The City of Watkins is responsible for the water mains up to the curb stop.
2. The City of Watkins is responsible for the sewer main line.
3. The Homeowner is responsible for the water lines from the curb stop to the house.
4. The Homeowner is responsible for the sewer lines from the main to the house.
5. The Homeowner is responsible for hiring and paying a licensed plumber or other firm capable of safely thawing their service lines. Homeowners will assume all risks and liabilities of using a pipe thawing service. The Homeowner shall contact City Hall when the line is open.

Procedures:

In the event of an extended period of cold weather and when the frost has reached a depth that may impact the water service lines, **the City of Watkins will issue a notice to begin running** the recommended stream of water as instructed below.

Turn a faucet on with a steady stream of running water about the width of a standard pencil-size to prevent freezing. It is estimated that a stream of water as suggested would fill a 1 quart jar in approximately 1 minute.

Monitor water temperature by keeping a thermometer under a running faucet for about 5 minutes and then reading the temperature. If the temp drops to 40 degrees or below, the frost may be getting close to the service line, which may be a warning sign to start a steady stream of water.

While these procedures are not guaranteed to prevent a frozen water line, they will substantially reduce the risk.

Adjustments:

The Utility Bills will be adjusted according to City Council direction. However, the resident **MUST** notify City Hall as soon as possible that they are running the recommended stream of water.

Adopted by Watkins City Council on December 11, 2014.