



Friends of VOP-

Happy New Year from the board of directors! We hope everyone is off to a good start this year. Having experienced the recent cold snaps, here are some

COLD WEATHER TIPS (use at your own discretion)

- Dress in **layered clothing** and wear some kind of head cover.
- **Keep pets inside.**
- Bring **potted plants** inside.
- **Check space heaters** for sufficient ventilation and wire condition.
- Never place space heaters close to flammable objects, such as drapes or bedding.
- Make sure **fireplace flues are working properly.**
- Check **extension cords for breaks or fraying.**
- Do not use charcoal or gas grills **indoors.** They produce deadly carbon monoxide fumes.
- **Check on the elderly** and infirmed.
- **Disconnect and drain garden hoses.**
- **Cover outside faucets with insulating foam covers.**
- **Turn off water to outside faucets.**
- **Turn off sprinkler system** and blow compressed air through the lines to drain them.



- Close garage doors.
- Insulate exposed pipes (both hot and cold) under house with foam pipe insulation.
- **Open cabinet doors under sinks.**
- Set icemaker to make ice if the water line to it runs under the house.
- Don't forget to check on pipes to your washing machine in the laundry room
- **Locate water main cut-off valve**, and have a cut-off key handy.
- After the weather has warmed above freezing and any frozen pipes have thawed, turn off dripping faucets and monitor your water meter to check for unseen leaks.

How to Protect the Outside of Your Home

- **Clean your gutters** and downspouts **before** cold weather arrives.
- Spray an ice repellent solution on steps and walks before freezing weather arrives
- **Check antifreeze levels in cars.** Add if needed, and run engine to circulate new antifreeze in the crankcase.
- **Add freeze resistant windshield wiper fluid**, and spray to circulate it in lines.
- **Check air pressure in tires**, since cold weather causes the pressure to lower.
- **Add mulch around plants**, and cover plants that are prone to frost damage with **burlap or cloth**. Remove covering when temperatures warm above freezing.
- **Drain birdbaths** and fountains
- Gently sweep snow off plants and shrubs in an upward motion with a broom.
- Use rock salt, sand, or clay based kitty litter on walks and drives (NOTE: Salt can damage grass and other plants).



IF YOU'RE NOT GOING TO BE HOME DURING SUB-FREEZING TEMPERATURES.....Set the temperature of your home heating system no lower than 55 degrees to prevent pipes from bursting.

