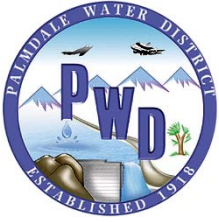


PALMDALE WATER DISTRICT

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Mike McNutt, PIO: 661-456-1041 (w), 614-390-7930 (c), email: pio@palmdalewater.org

Are You Ready for Old Man Winter?

Palmdale, CA – Cold weather is approaching the Antelope Valley and that means making sure that you are prepared for it. Every year homes experience cracking or bursting pipes due to the freezing conditions which can lead to water loss and costly repairs. Taking precautionary steps to make sure that your home is ready for the winter chill can help you be prepared for the best shot that this season can give.

Here are a few steps that you can take to ensure that your home is suited to handle whatever punch old man winter may have:

- Insulate pipes in your home's crawl spaces and attic and areas close to outside walls
- Use pipe wrap or foam tube pipe insulation
- Seal leaks that allow cold air inside near where pipes are located
- Disconnect water supply hoses, and, if possible use an indoor valve to shut off and drain water from pipes leading to outside faucets. Don't forget the water supply to an evaporative cooler

In addition to the tips above, here are a few more steps to take in extreme weather conditions:

- Let a trickle of hot and cold water drip overnight, preferably from a faucet on an outside wall
- Keep your thermostat set at the same temperature during both day and night. (You may be in the habit of turning down the heat when you're asleep)
- Open cabinet doors to allow heat to get to uninsulated pipes under sinks and appliances near exterior walls

If your pipes do freeze, don't panic. Just because a pipe is frozen doesn't mean they've already burst. Here's what you can do:

- If you turn on your faucet and nothing comes out, leave the faucets turned on
- Never try to thaw a pipe with a torch or other open flame
- You may be able to thaw a frozen pipe with the warm air from a hair dryer. Start by warming the pipe as close to the faucet as possible
- If your water pipes have already burst, and you have a main shutoff valve in the house, shut the valve off. Leave the water faucets turned on

If you do not have a shut off valve in your house, call Palmdale Water District at 661 947-4111 during regular business hours. After hours - call 661 947-4114. Or visit our webpage at: www.palmdalewater.org.