

Preparing for cold weather

When winter storm Uri hit Central Texas in February 2021, it helped us all realize that we need to be better prepared for the cold weather.

During Uri, most of the water line breaks in the City occurred due to back flow devices freezing in the frigid temperatures. Back flow devices are required on customer service lines that have an irrigation system. By design, a back flow device usually extends above ground making it very susceptible to freezing during temperatures that fall below 32 degrees unless they are insulated.

Other water features that are susceptible to freezing weather are water faucets on the outside of homes and water pipes on homes that sit on pier and beam instead of concrete slabs. Even interior water pipes can freeze if power is lost for an extended amount of time and interior temperatures fall below 32 degrees.

City staff recommends the following suggestions to assist customers in preparing for the cold weather:

- Insulate your back flow devices and outside water faucets.
- If temperatures are expected to remain below freezing for several days, leave a faucet or two dripping inside your home or business, this keeps water flowing through the pipes which will reduce the chances of pipes freezing. This is especially important if you live in a home sitting on pier and beam



Back flow devices are required on customer services lines that have an irrigation system. Devices with no insulation (like the two above) are susceptible to freezing. An insulated covering (like the two shown below) can help protect the device.



Uncovered water faucets are susceptible to freezing, so be sure to use a faucet cover, like the one shown on the right:

