



CITY OF BISHOP

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Public Works News Release

Don't Freeze The Plumbing

Fall nights are getting longer and cooler so it is time to prepare outdoor plumbing and valves for freezing weather.

Freezing can cause expensive damage to pipes and valves. The damage can be prevented if the plumbing is properly prepared for the cold before it has the chance to freeze. If your outdoor plumbing - such as for a sprinkler system - isn't prepared soon, you may be asking for trouble.

The best ways to prepare pipes and valves for cold weather is to either drain them or keep them warm with insulation or with heated tape. Most landscaping companies and hardware stores that deal with irrigation and plumbing can help you prepare for the cold weather.

Of all the pipes and valves, special valves called "backflow valves" are especially vulnerable to damage and especially expensive to repair. Although the purpose of these valves is not obvious, it is important that they are in place and functioning properly. To serve their critical function of protecting the public water supply from contamination, they must function properly. Backflow valves are usually mounted outside near irrigation control valves. Draining, insulating, or heating backflow valves over the winter will protect the valves from damage if it is done properly. To make sure backflow valves work like they are supposed to, City of Bishop staff test all the backflow valves in the city each year. If the valves don't function correctly because they froze, they have to be repaired, at the customer's expense.

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