

6 Tips to Prevent Water Leaks

Sub-freezing temperatures can result in damage to pipes inside your home or the service line attached to it, causing leaks. When water freezes, it expands, sometimes taking up more space than the pipe can hold. These tips can help you avoid indoor flooding and other dangers:

- Know where your water meter box is located. If crews show up and the box is buried under snow, the quicker they can find the box, the quicker they can make fixes.
- Mark the location of your meter box and keep it clear of debris (dirt, rocks, grass, weeds, garbage, vehicles). Make sure it is easy to find for quick access.
- Have a plumber install a shutoff valve on the customer side of the meter for emergencies.
- Locate the shutoff valve of your residential water supply as it enters the home and familiarize yourself with how these valves function. Handle in line indicates water is flowing; handle across the pipe indicates the valve is closed and stopping the water flow.
- Meet with a neighbor and learn the location of these valves at their homes. If either of you are away, you can lean on each other in times of crisis.
- Know who your water provider is and the company's contact number. Refer to the map below to determine KPUDowned and/or operated water systems.

To contact KPUD for an emergency water shut-off, call 509-773-5891. During non-business hours, calls are forwarded to our answering service, CRC, to dispatch an operator. ■

