



## **HARD FREEZE PREPAREDNESS**

### Tips on Preparation for Hard Freezes in Louisiana



*“Make preparations in advance – you never have trouble if you are prepared for it.” Theodore Roosevelt*

#### **What Causes Frozen Pipes?**

The water inside pipes can freeze when outdoor temperatures drop below freezing. As freezing water expands, it causes the pressure inside the pipes to increase, possibly leading to bursting pipes.

#### **Ways to Prevent Frozen Pipes:**

- \* Insulate pipes; especially those close to outside walls, attics, or crawl spaces where the chance of freezing is greatest
- \* Seal air leaks surrounding or near pipes
- \* Turn on any heat trace if applicable
- \* Disconnect all outdoor hoses and turn off water to exterior faucets and sprinkler systems
- \* Wrap all exposed pipes

\* Identify the locations of the shutoff valves so that you are prepared to stop the flow of water as soon as possible when a pipe burst

#### **What to Do When Pipes Freeze or Burst:**

- \* Turn off supply valve as quickly as possible
- \* Take proper precautions to avoid an electrical shock from being in or near standing water
- \* Remove the insulation and make needed repairs
- \* Contact the City of Walker Utility Department and report your leak so your water bill can be adjusted if necessary