

# The Water Connection

North Kootenai  
Water and Sewer District  
www.nkwsd.com



November 2014 Issue

## Office Hours

Office - 7:30 am to 4 pm  
Phones - 7:30 am to 3:50 pm  
Monday thru Friday  
Closed most major holidays

## Thawing Frozen Pipes

The American Red Cross website has the following ideas for thawing frozen water pipes:

- Keep the faucet open. As you treat the frozen pipe and the water begins to melt, water will begin to flow through the frozen area. Running water will help melt ice in the pipe.
- Apply heat to the section of pipe using an electric heating pad wrapped around the pipe, an electric hair dryer or a portable space heater (kept away from flammable materials). Do not use an open flame device.
- If the frozen area is not accessible or you can not thaw the pipe, call a licensed plumber.
- Check all other faucets. If one pipe freezes, others may freeze, too.

For more information, go to [www.redcross.org](http://www.redcross.org).

## Clear Fire Hydrants

Keep fire hydrants clear of snow this winter. This is for your safety and home protection. Do not depend on someone else to do it. In a fire emergency, the fire department needs access to the hydrant as fast as possible.

## Conservation Tip

As you can see in the chart to the right, even small leaks can use a lot of water. If a leak is dripping onto the ground, the ground can absorb the leak and begin a trail down to the aquifer so that you don't even see the leak. If you are aware of a leak, you should have it repaired as soon as possible.

Size of Leak		Loss of Gallons Per Month
1/16"	•	25,000 gallons
1/8"	●	100,000 gallons
1/4"	●●	400,000 gallons

## Avoid Winter Water Woes

Are you ready for winter's freezing temperatures? If you have exposed water pipes in an unheated area such as a garage, make sure you insulate them. Be sure to use waterproof insulation for outside pipes. Taking a few minutes now, before freezing temperatures are here to stay, will keep your pipes from freezing and bursting. This could save you hundreds and maybe thousands of dollars.

Find out where your water shut-off is located. Do this now. Waiting until an emergency to find this can waste valuable time and cause more damage to property. If you do not have a water shut-off at your house and you are dependent on us to shut the water off at the meter, understand that your water will be leaking for several minutes before we can be on scene. Not to mention if there is snow and we have to find the meter and dig it out. You might consider installing a water shut-off in your house to get the water shut off as soon as possible.

If you have not already done this, make sure your water hoses are disconnected from outside spigots.

Finally, find out the name of a good plumber. If you have never had to hire one, ask your friends and neighbors who they have used. Write the name and number down where you can find it quickly. Having the name and phone number of a good plumber is one less headache you will have to deal with during an emergency.

## Call Before You Dig

Call 811 at least 48 hours before you dig, for any reason, at any depth. *Locates are free. Repairs are not.*



*Happy Thanksgiving*

*We will be closed Thursday and Friday, Nov. 27 and 28 to spend the holiday with our families.*

*We hope each of you have a wonderful Thanksgiving holiday.*

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