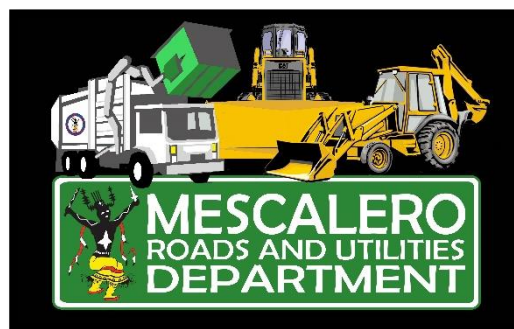


Information from the Mescalero Apache Tribe Utilities Department

The winter season is upon us and we would like to give you some information about the water.

When air temperatures drop below 32°F, the water in soil starts to freeze. The colder the winter and the longer the cold, the deeper the frost line will go causing more breaks and leaks on underground water infrastructure. Cold makes things shrink. Despite being buried — presumably below the frost line — both the ground outside the pipe and the water inside the pipe are much colder in winter than in summer. This causes the pipe segments to shrink, putting tension on the joints, and increasing the chances that a weak one will fail. By contrast, warm weather puts the joints under compression, helping to seal any leaks.



We hope that is information will help you. If you have any questions please contact the MAT Utilities Department. If a water break is to happen please contact the below listed numbers.
(575) 464-4311 – (575) 973-5515 – (575) 937-2304

How do you keep pipes from breaking in the winter?

Let the cold-water drip from a faucet served by exposed **pipes**. Running water through the **pipe**—even at a trickle—helps **prevent pipes** from freezing. Keep the thermostat set to the same temperature during day and night. When the weather is very cold outside, let the cold-water drip from the faucet served by exposed **pipes**. Running **water** through the pipe - even at a trickle - helps **prevent pipes from freezing**. compression, helping to seal any leaks.

What happens if a water line breaks?

A broken **pipe** causes **water** to shoot out from under the ground with incredible force, creating a geyser that can rise many feet into the air. Gallons upon gallons of **water** are spewed into the street and can flood nearby buildings or homes. Please contact the Mescalero Apache Tribe – Utilities Department.

Will shutting off water keep pipes from freezing?

Indoors. If a **water** pipe has **frozen** and burst, **turn off** the **water** at the main **shut-off** valve in the house.

How do I prepare my pipes for winter?

How to Prepare Your Pipes for Winter

1. Insulate **pipes**. **Pipes** in unheated areas like a crawl space, garage, or attic are susceptible to freezing temperatures. ...
2. Shut off outdoor faucets. ...
3. Open cabinet doors. ...
4. Check furnace or HVAC unit. ...
5. Run water. ...
6. Inspect the exterior.



Also, you can consider installing specific products made to insulate water pipes like a "pipe sleeve" or installing UL-listed "heat tape," "heat cable," or similar materials on exposed water pipes. Newspaper can provide some degree of insulation and protection to exposed pipes – even ¼" of newspaper can provide significant protection in areas that usually do not have frequent or prolonged temperatures below freezing.