



PARTNERS IN PREVENTION · PARTNERS IN PREVENTION · PARTNERS IN PREVENTION · PARTNERS IN PREVENTION

Thawing Frozen Pipes

Occasionally, water pipes freeze, expand and burst causing extensive property damage. However, if you aren't careful, thawing frozen pipes can cause more harm than good!

When pipes freeze it is tempting to find the frozen section of pipe and simply use a torch to melt the ice. Never do this! Pipes freeze when warm air cannot reach them due to additional construction or creation of a confined space. Using a torch becomes hazardous as the open flame can ignite nearby combustibles or wood framing and quickly get out of control.

The key to safely thawing frozen pipes is to apply slow, even heat. For example,

- A Hair dryer
- A Heat lamp
- A Heating cable
- An Electric Pipe Thawing Machine
- Hot wet towels wrapped around pipes

Additional precautions should be taken when thawing pipes to ensure a fire is prevented:

- Survey the hot work area and always remove combustible material.
- If combustible material can't be removed, use thermal barriers (i.e. ceramic flame guard or heat shield) to protect it.
- Have a multi-purpose fire extinguisher nearby at all times. The extinguisher should have a minimum rating of 3A 10BC.
- Conduct a fire watch for at least 30 minutes after finishing hot work.

Taking these precautions is the best way to prevent fires and thaw pipes safely.

Partners In Prevention

At Federated Insurance, we believe Loss Prevention is a critical component of your Risk Management Program. Your Risk Services Coordinator, together with our Loss Prevention

Team, is available to assist you in this area. Working together to reduce your loss exposures protects your bottom line! For more information, contact your Risk Services Coordinator, our Loss Prevention Department at 1-800-665-1934, or visit our website at www.federated.ca

Federated Insurance provides this Loss Prevention Bulletin as a service to our policyholders and their business advisors. The information provided is intended to be general in nature, and may not apply in your province. The advice of independent legal or other business advisors should be obtained in developing forms and procedures for your business. The recommendations in this bulletin are designed to reduce the risk of loss, but should not be construed as eliminating any risk or loss.



Knowing your business matters.