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CBB Water System has been preparing for the upcoming winter storm and extremely cold weather, and we want to make sure our members are also well prepared. While we don't anticipate any water outages, most of us remember the frigid cold spell we had back in 2021 where we did have outages of water distribution over several days. This was due to the loss of our water source from Bossier City; and even though we are confident that we will not see that repeated this year, anything is possible. In addition to cold temperatures, we may be in for a good bit of ice and freezing rain this time around. Therefore, please review the list of tips below to help you prepare for this weather event:

- 1) Plan to drip your indoor faucets, particularly Saturday night and Sunday night. Dripping is important, but we also know that it is a use of water; anything above a steady drip or very small stream of water should be avoided. Anything more than a steady drip or very small stream will tax the System's ability to deliver water to all of our members and will be costly to you over an extended period of time.
- 2) On the nights that extremely low temperatures are forecast, you can also help keep things flowing by opening any cabinet (or vanity) doors to spaces where your sink plumbing is located. The heated air from your house will help a lot.
- 3) To be prepared in the unlikely event we lose water, or you experience frozen pipes, we suggest you consider filling a bathtub with water beforehand to give you a way to flush your toilets. Also, stockpile some water for drinking and food prep in pitchers and such.
- 4) Seems like during every cold snap, we have members who have pipes freeze or burst that have never had that happen before. You should survey the outside of your house for exposed pipes and faucets and take protective action. If your home is off the ground, you should protect any exposed lines under your home. If the main supply line to your house freezes, you will not have water until temperatures get above freezing, in this case, Monday or even Tuesday. And worse, if the pipe breaks, you could have a significant (costly) water leak event (that may not begin until things thaw out).
- 5) Once temperatures start to rise and things are thawing out, you will need to be aware of your water pressure; if it is lower than normal, you may have a leak. You will need to look around outside for any signs of a leak to avoid a costly water bill. If you have elderly neighbors or anyone else who might need assistance, please look out for signs of leaks for them.
- 6) Repeating, prevention is key. If you have an exposed faucet or pipe and can't get to a store to buy a Styrofoam protective device or pipe insulation, then get an old towel and wrap the faucet or pipe with it, then cover it with a plastic bag. While some effort will obviously be required to get all your exterior faucets and exposed pipes protected, it will be easier (and much cheaper) than having to make repairs.
- 7) And, as we all know, ice storms many times cause prolonged power outages. CBB has backup generators designed to help us keep the water flowing during power outages, but if you do not have backup power or a fireplace, a power outage can be extremely dangerous with the cold weather we are expecting. Have a plan for what you might need to do in case of a prolonged power outage. Prearrange a place to go, if need be, and have transportation worked out ahead of such an emergency.

Please stay safe and warm (at home if at all possible). Any major water system issues will be communicated via our website and Facebook.