HANDY TIPS TO
AVOID FROZEN PIPES
BEFORE THE COLD WEATHER SETS IN

1. Install a carbon monoxide detector.
2. Disconnect and drain garden hoses.
3. Cover faucets with insulating foam covers.
4. Turn off water to faucets, if available, and open valves on faucets to allow them to drain.
5. Turn off the sprinkler system and blow compressed air through the lines to drain them.
6. Seals Holes and Cracks
   a. Small holes where cable wires or phone lines enter the building can be an entry point for freezing air—or places where indoor heat can escape.
   b. Weatherstripping, spray foam insulation, or caulking to remedy any cracks around your doors and windows. Also, check the exterior for cracks and gaps.
7. Close or cover foundation vents under buildings and windows to basements.
8. Insulate exposed pipes (both hot and cold) under buildings with foam pipe insulation.
9. Make sure heat is left on and set no lower than 55 degrees.
   a. Make sure you'll be able to keep your thermostat running continuously by keeping spare batteries on hand.
10. If you plan to be away:
    a. Have someone check your buildings daily to make sure the heat is still on to prevent freezing, or
    b. Drain and shut off the water system (except indoor sprinkler systems).
    c. Set icemaker to make ice if the water line to it runs under the buildings.
11. Make sure you know how to shut off the water, in case pipes burst.
12. Make sure they are in good working order.
13. Turn the valve handle all the way clockwise to shut off all water.
14. Locate the water main cut-off valve, and have a cut-off key handy.
   a. Note: Your city may have regulations against shutting off the water yourself. Keep the water department's emergency number handy, so you'll be able to report problems quickly

Add Insulation

1. Making sure your buildings have adequate insulation.
2. Prevent pipes from freezing and keep your buildings warmer.
3. Includes insulating your exterior walls, crawl space or basement, attic, and in many cases, the pipes themselves.
   a. Your local energy utility company may offer free in-home energy audits that can evaluate your energy usage and recommend the necessary steps to bring the R-value in walls and ceilings up to advised levels for your region.

Vehicle Preparation:

1. Check your battery
2. Check your fluids (coolant, wiper fluid, oil, etc.)
3. Check your tires
4. Have jumper cables
5. Pack a blanket

Clean Gutters

1. Clean your gutters out before the freezing temperatures get here.
   a. Full gutters increase your chance of having ice form on your roof.

WHEN TEMPERATURES STAY BELOW FREEZING

1. Keep Garage Doors Closed - This will help to keep cold air out and protect plumbing fixtures in your garage and pipes in the shared walls between the building and garage.
2. Drip hot and cold faucets.
3. Drip single control faucets with lever set in the middle.
4. Open cabinet doors to allow more heat to get to un-insulated pipes under a sink or near an outer wall.
5. Don’t forget to check on pipes to your washing machine in the laundry room
6. Check Attic Ventilation
   a. Inspect to make sure there’s no insulation blocking your soffits or attic vents.

Generators

1. NEVER run generators indoors.
2. Open a window slightly when using a kerosene heater and follow the manufacturer’s instructions.
3. NEVER use a gas oven to heat your home.
4. If your heat goes out, you can keep warm indoors by closing off rooms you do not need, dressing in layers of lightweight clothing, and wearing a cap.

Wood-burning stoves, fireplaces, and heaters

1. Always keep a screen around an open flame.
2. NEVER use gasoline to start your fireplace.
3. NEVER burn charcoal indoors.
4. Do not close the damper when ashes are hot.
5. Use only safe sources of alternative heat such as a fireplace, small well-ventilated wood, or coal stove, or portable space heaters. Always follow the manufacturer’s instructions.

Animal and Pet Safety

1. Bring pets inside
2. Provide shelter and fresh water
3. Keep salt away from paws

IF PIPES FREEZE

1. Use a hairdryer, heat lamp, electric heat tape, or a portable space heater to thaw frozen pipes that have not burst. Always be careful of the potential for electric shock in and around standing water.
2. Keep the faucet open when thawing frozen pipes to allow water to begin flowing through it.
3. NEVER try to thaw a pipe with an open flame or torch.
4. After the weather has warmed above freezing and any frozen pipes have thawed, turn off dripping faucets and monitor your water meter to check for unseen leaks.

For More Information please see:
https://www.weather.gov/safety/cold-wind-chill-chart
http://www.ready.gov/winter-weather