

## **MOBILE AREA WATER & SEWER SYSTEM (MAWSS) MEDIA ADVISORY**

For immediate release: February 18, 2015

Contact: Barbara Shaw, Public Affairs Manager, 694-3113 or bshaw@mawss.com

### **MAWSS Offers Advice to Protect Pipes During Hard Freeze**

A hard freeze is predicted for the Mobile area tonight that could result in water pipes freezing. Mobile Area Water & Sewer System (MAWSS) offers these tips to help customers prevent problems with water pipes.

1. Disconnect and drain all outside hoses. Shut off all irrigation systems and allow them to drain.
2. Wrap exposed outside water pipes with materials that insulate against the cold. Hardware and building supply companies sell a variety of products. Newspapers or rags wrapped in plastic will also work for outside faucets.
3. Know the location of the main water shut off valve to your house and how to use it. If a pipe bursts anywhere in the house, this valve can be used to turn off the water.
4. Insulate pipes in unheated areas such as crawl spaces, attics or a garage.
5. Open cupboard doors in the kitchen and bathroom so warm air can reach water pipes located in outside walls.
6. Businesses with above ground backflow prevention devices should take special care when wrapping pipes to prevent crucial vents from being blocked. This will prevent the device from operating properly.

Even if you take these precautions, pipes might still freeze. Make sure you have the name and number of a licensed plumber before an emergency. If you attempt to thaw pipes yourself, use a hair dryer with a low heat setting to thaw pipes slowly. You can also wrap the frozen sections with rags and pour hot water over them. It's messy, but it works.

If you have a water emergency, please call MAWSS' Customer Care Team at 694-3165.