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Cold weather tips for water line care

With the arrival of the first bite of winter in Campbell River, the unusually cold temperatures have brought us weather challenges usually seen in chillier parts of the country.

“The City has received multiple calls this week from home owners who have frozen or burst water lines,” says Ron Neufeld, the City’s general manager of operations. *“With this cold spell expected to ease up temporarily, the City’s water department is encouraging residents to take precautions before the thermometer dives again.”*

The City’s water service is buried approximately three feet underground up to the property connection and is generally not susceptible to freezing. For most residents, underground water service on private property continues to be deeply buried and enters directly into a heated home or insulated area.

But any water lines or pipes exposed to cold enough temperatures can burst when the water inside them freezes and expands as it turns to ice, Neufeld cautions.

Water service freezing can result for properties with un-insulated crawl spaces, trailers with pipes exposed to outside air and wind as well as irrigation systems that have exposed sections or are not deeply buried.

“In order to avoid these problems, consider taking advantage of the coming thaw to check your water service and insulate any sections of pipe that are exposed to cold,” Neufeld advises. *“Also, remember to disconnect outside water hoses and blow out irrigation systems to make sure they’re free of water for the winter season.”*

Homeowners who are concerned there might be a leak on the City side of their water service are encouraged to call the Dogwood operations centre at 250-286-4033.

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