

## We are prepared.

## Are you?

### EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS —

### What You Can Do

People can survive for weeks without food, but **only a few days without water**. If there is a major earthquake or other disaster, the water distribution system may be damaged or water could be contaminated. The Portland Water Bureau will be working around the clock to restore the water system.

### Here are three things you can do to prepare:

1

#### Sign up to get Public Alerts.

Sign up to be contacted by landline phone, cell phone, email, and/or text message in case of an emergency in your area (see Public Alerts on reverse side).

2

#### Get a kit, make a plan, and be informed.

The American Red Cross recommends that you have an emergency kit that contains at least a three day supply of water, food, and other supplies for you and each member of your household (pets too!). Here in the Pacific Northwest where the risk of earthquakes is high, you should prepare for seven to fourteen days. For more information go to [www.redcross.org/or/portland](http://www.redcross.org/or/portland).

3

#### Know how to shut off your water.

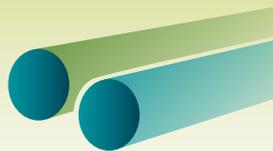
Most homes have a master shut-off valve that can turn off your home's water supply in case of an emergency. Make sure all members of your household know the location and how to turn the master valve off in case of an emergency.

## Portland Water Bureau Prepared to Respond

Protecting public health is the Portland Water Bureau's primary goal – every day AND in an emergency. Here are some things the Water Bureau is doing to keep you safe and the water flowing:



Portland has two high-quality sources, the Bull Run watershed and the Columbia South Shore Well Field, as well as backup connections to other local water systems in an emergency.



The Portland Water Bureau regularly replaces aging water system elements – pipes, pumps, valves – to keep water flowing.



Emergency crews are trained to respond and repair broken water system elements.



The Portland Water Bureau is a member of the Regional Water Providers Consortium, which brings Portland Metro area water providers together to plan, prepare for, and respond to emergencies. [www.regionalh2o.org](http://www.regionalh2o.org)

# Rain, ice and snow can cause problems with water pipes.

Here are some tips for protecting your home's plumbing this winter.

## OUTSIDE PLUMBING

- \* Caulk around pipes where they enter the home.
- \* Close all foundation vents and fill vent openings with wood or Styrofoam™ blocks.
- \* Wrap outside faucets or hose bibs with insulation if you don't have a separate outside valve to turn them off. Use molded foam-insulating covers which are available at hardware stores. Newspaper or rags (covered with plastic wrap) are another option.
- \* Disconnect garden hoses and drain in-ground irrigation systems.

## INSIDE PLUMBING

- \* Insulate pipes in unheated areas, such as attics, crawl spaces and basements.
- \* When below-freezing weather is forecasted, open cupboard doors in the kitchen and bathrooms. This allows these pipes to get more heat from inside your home.
- \* If you leave home for several days, put your furnace on a low setting. This may not prevent freezing pipes but it can help.
- \* Let a slight drip of water run when temperatures dip below freezing. Use cold water to avoid water heating charges.



## What if pipes freeze?

Thaw plumbing lines safely with a hair dryer or heat lamp. Once the pipe has thawed, make sure to leave a little water running so the pipe doesn't freeze again.

Do not open the water meter box near the curb. It could increase the chance of freezing water at the meter.

## What if pipes break?

Close your main water shut-off valve to your house. Most shut-off valves are located where the water line enters the house, either at the front of your house where you connect your hose, or basement near the hot water heater, or inside the garage.

Turn off the water heater. Locate the dedicated shut-off valve on the cold water inlet.

Remember, the repair of broken pipes on the customer's side of the meter is the customer's responsibility. Contact a plumber for repair work.

## Public Alerts

Do you want to be notified when an emergency happens in your neighborhood? The City of Portland – in partnership with Multnomah County – has a community notification system available through the website [PublicAlerts.org](http://PublicAlerts.org).

Visit [www.PublicAlerts.org](http://www.PublicAlerts.org) to sign up to receive alerts by landline phone, cell phone, email and/or text message.

PublicAlerts



### Portland Water Bureau

1120 SW Fifth Avenue, Room 600

Portland, OR 97204-1926

Phone: 503-823-7404

Customer Service: 503-823-7770

Website: [portlandoregon.gov/water](http://portlandoregon.gov/water)



Nick Fish, Commissioner

David G. Shaff, Administrator

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