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## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **Preparing your home's plumbing for freezing weather**

**Kerrville, Texas (Dec. 10, 2021)** – With temperatures expected to drop near or below freezing Saturday night, there are many things a home owner can do to protect their home and pipes during freezing weather. Listed are several of the more important things that will help protect your home's pipes and drinking water supply.

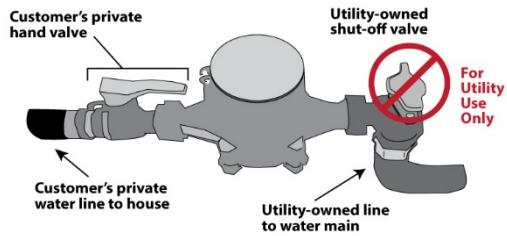
- **Wrap and insulate pipes**

Always wrap or cover outside faucets in freezing weather and make sure all water hoses are disconnected. This will prevent breaks and expensive repairs. Insulate pipes located in the attic and crawl spaces using pipe insulation. Heat tape can also be used with a thermostat. Always install according to the manufacturer's directions.



- **Ensure customer water shut-off valve is installed and functioning**

In an emergency such as a water pipe breaking in your house, your water must be shut off quickly to prevent damage and loss of water. To do this you will need a customer water shut-off valve or hand-valve. It should be installed/located after the meter.



- **Winterize your irrigation system**

Irrigation systems should be shut off and winterized during freezing weather. This includes turning off the water, setting the controls to rain mode and draining the water from the system. A licensed irrigator should be contacted if assistance is needed.



- **Draining pipes when your home is vacant in winter**

If your home is to be vacant for an extended period of time during freezing weather, homeowners should consider shutting off their water at the customer shut-off valve and draining the system. If this is done, care must be taken to properly shut down all hot water heaters, pumps, water softeners and any other appliances that may be connected to the water system to prevent safety issues. Contacting a plumber for assistance with this process is recommended.

- **Note: Do not drip faucets or use any water unnecessarily during an extreme winter storm**, especially if there are power outages.