

Building Winter Freeze Protection Policy

The purpose of this Policy is to limit potential damage to property due to freezing of water pipes and related damage in the event of heating system failure. This Policy only applies to churches that own buildings in locations that experience below freezing temperatures. Churches that lease facilities are also subject to this policy if they bear the risk of damage to heating and plumbing systems. The Diocese approved this Policy effective April 2021.

Basic Requirements

- The main water shutoff valve should be readily accessible and labeled.
- Staff members should have the knowledge to locate and operate the main water shutoff valve.
- Operation of the valve should be tested at least annually.
- Structures with water pipes should be heated with a minimum temperature of 55 degrees.
- Structures should be utilized, inspected or otherwise monitored at least weekly to ensure heating systems are operating.
- For unheated structures or spaces, water lines should be drained to prevent freezing.