

RISK ALERT

January 17, 2025

SEVERE FREEZING WEATHER

The National Weather Service is forecasting the coldest outbreak of the winter to impact Texas starting this weekend. Temperatures may range from the single digits in the Panhandle to freezing in the Valley. Below freezing temperatures could last for a few days and possibly stay below freezing during the day in some locations. This is also a setup for frozen and bursting pipes, power outages, and possible mixed wintry precipitation. The front bringing all this misery is forecast to reach the coast by late in the weekend.

We urge Center emergency preparedness staff to take precautions to prevent freezing and bursting pipes. In the last major winter storm in 2021 The Fund paid out \$4,306,093 to 24 different members ranging from north and west Texas all the way to the Gulf coast. In most cases the claims occurred because “frozen water pipes burst causing water damage.” Some of the claims took two years for repairs because of the extent of damages and the high demand for competent contractors to make repairs. In many cases fire protection pipes or sprinkler heads burst. Contact your fire suppression company for their recommendations about prevention of damage.

Power outages contributed to most of the claims but preemptive actions to shut off water and know where the shut offs are can help. This might require continual patrolling of your facilities during and after the freeze to detect flooding and leaks. If possible, keep heat on in your buildings especially where water piping runs through attics and along outside walls. Insulate or cover outdoor faucets and wrap pipes where possible. If you lose power for an extended period of time, shut off water lines into your buildings. Check with your sprinkler company and

notify your local fire marshal if you have to do this because that could suspend your active fire protection.

Report any claims promptly and do not contract for any repairs until a Fund adjuster has seen the damage.

Use the links below for additional resources:

[TCRMF Freezing Weather Emergency Response Plan](#)

[Winterizing Best Practices](#)

[Staff Contact List](#)

www.tcrmf.org