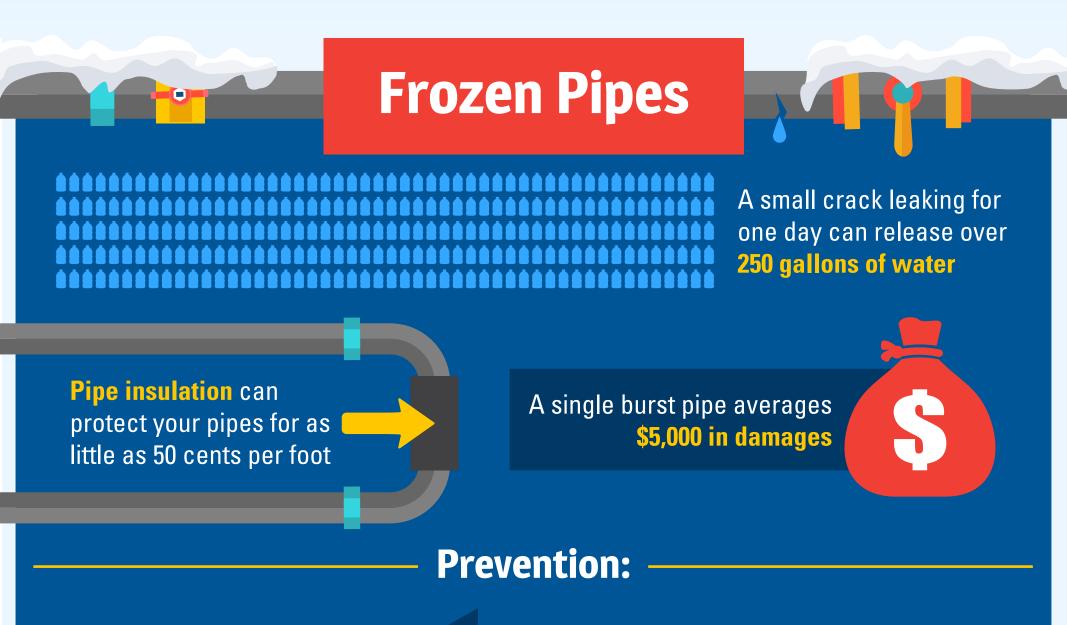
Staying Ahead of Severe Winter Weather



Severe winter weather can negatively impact your business and bottom line if you're unprepared for a storm. Some of the greatest concerns for business owners include property damage, business continuity planning and loss of profit.* Prepare your property for the unexpected.



Maintain 65°F or higher in thebuilding during the winter

Wrap high-risk pipes-(i.e. those in unheated areas) with heat cables or heat tape

Disconnect outdoorhoses and shut off the indoor water valve



Visually inspect the exterior of your building and seal any air leaks close to the pipes with insulation or caulk

During unusually cold snaps, allow one faucet to drip warm water slowly, which can aid in preventing pipes from freezing





Blackouts during the winter months are primarily caused by the weight of ice and snow on wires combined with downed tree limbs

Prevention:



Plan to maintain heat to avoid pipes from freezing through the use of supplemental heat or back up power



Develop a communication plan for all critical employees



Arrange for alternate supplies of critical materials



Implement a procedure to maintain your building's protective features such as alarm systems and sprinkler systems





Plan to deal with product spoilage, which can include transfer of product, accelerated delivery to customers and/or delayed deliveries from suppliers, etc.

Snow or Ice Build-Up

Most roofs are designed to withstand 30lbs. of weight per sq. ft.

Prevention:

Check for heat leaking into attics and concealed spaces under the roof to minimize the potential for ice dams Survey the condition of your roof and have all required repairs made to the roof surface, including all flashing and fasteners

Inspect gutters, downspouts and scuppers for damage, blockages, vegetation and any other fault that would prevent their proper operation

--- Create a **snow removal plan** or contract for snow removal and ice treatment



*FM Global fielded the study in mid-February 2014 about the impact of severe winter weather on U.S. businesses, using the research services of Toluna. Full-time employees, age 18 and older, were screened from a nationally representative sample. The survey had a margin of error of plus/minus 4.3 percentage points at a 95 percent confidence level, and was completed by 521 nard.

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