COPING WITH THE COLD

Frozen Pipes

- The best solution is to prevent pipes from freezing.
- Be sure to remove all hoses from outside faucets and wrap the faucets, or invest in Styrofoam faucet covers.
- **If pipes do freeze, do not use open flames (such as a propane torch) to try to thaw the pipes**. That creates high fire danger.
- Pipes can be thawed by wrapping rags around them and repeatedly pouring hot water over them. A hair dryer is a good option, place a cookie sheet between the pipe and the wall to protect the wall and reflect heat back onto the pipe. Another technique is to use electric heat tape. This is a ribbon type wrap that has electrical heating elements in it. You wrap it around the pipe you want to heat, and plug it into the wall. The temperature is controlled with a thermostat and the heat tape heats the pipe.
- If a water pipe breaks, immediately turn off the main shut-off valve to your home to control flooding and water damage. If you can't get the water to shut off, call 911

What to Do If the Lights Go Out

If your power goes off, 9-1-1 is NOT the appropriate number to call. Call your electric company to report the outage (for Puget Power customers, the number is 1-800-321-4123).

Prepare now for possible power outages:

- The fire department strongly recommends that you not use candles, which create high fire danger. Use electric lanterns instead, and stock up with extra batteries for them. If you must use a candle, put it in a non-combustible candleholder and never leave it burning if you are not in the room to watch it.
- Use your woodstove or wood-burning fireplace for warmth. Do not use a gas stove or your oven for heat. To retain heat, close curtains and shades and seal the bottoms of doors with towels to prevent drafts.
- Make sure your smoke detector works! If your detector is wired into the electricity but doesn't have a backup battery, it won't work if the power is off. Put up at least one battery-operated detector in addition.
- Cook outside with camping gear. **Do not bring gas or charcoal barbecues or propane stoves or lanterns inside—they give off dangerous carbon monoxide.**
- If you have a generator never run it inside or in the garage keep it as far away from open doors and windows as possible because the exhaust is full of carbon monoxide. Be sure you have a Carbon Monoxide alarm in your home.
- Prepare a disaster kit. Stock up on food, water, a flashlight and batteries, battery-operated radio and batteries, first aid kit, blankets, and warm clothing. Here is a link to how to make a disaster kit http://www.southkingfire.org/prepare

Driving, Walking in Snow

- The best advice about walking or driving in snow and ice is, DON'T, unless it's absolutely necessary.
- When walking on ice or snow, take shorter steps to keep your weight balanced. Wear shoes with good traction.
- When driving on ice or snow, there are two important rules: slow down and stay back. Even if you have four-wheel drive, you can't drive safely if you go as fast as usual and follow at your usual distance. Four-wheel drive helps you get started, but it isn't much help when turning or stopping.