



**NEWS RELEASE**  
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## **Foam, Dome & Drip to Avoid Frozen Pipes this Winter**

**(TALLAHASSEE, FL)** - Though the official start of winter isn't until December 21<sup>st</sup>, 'Old Man Winter' has already arrived. While danger from winter weather varies in different regions of the country the [Federal Alliance for Safe Homes, Inc. - FLASH®](http://www.flash.org) is reminding homeowners that no matter where you live, the best way to deal with extreme weather and to protect your home is to be prepared.

During extreme cold temperatures, one of the most serious threats to your home can be frozen water pipes. When water freezes in a pipe it expands and can exert pressure over 2,000 pounds per square inch. This pressure is enough to rupture most any pipe filled with water which provides no place for the ice to expand. When the pipe bursts it can spill several hundred gallons of water per hour, resulting in the second most common cause of home insurance claims in America.

"Fifty dollars worth of insulation materials can prevent damage that will cost you upwards of \$500 to repair," said Leslie Chapman-Henderson, FLASH President/CEO. "That is just the plumbing costs, you may have additional costs if the water caused damage to other parts of your home."

With just three simple steps, families can protect themselves from this costly damage.

Remember: **FOAM, DOME, DRIP**

**FOAM:** Insulate pipes exposed to the elements or cold drafts. For as little as \$1 per 6' of insulation, you can stop pipes from freezing and save energy.

**DOME:** Placing an insulating dome or other coverings on outdoor faucets and spigots also reduce the likelihood of the water in your homes pipes freezing, expanding and causing a costly leak.

**DRIP:** Drip your faucets, to you reduce the build-up of pressure in the pipes. Even if the pipes freeze, you have released the pressure from the water system reducing the likelihood of a rupture. If you are going out of town, and you suspect they temperatures will drop, turn off the water to your home and open all of the taps to drain the water system. This way you won't return to a frozen, soggy mess.

Visit [www.FLASH.org](http://www.FLASH.org) for additional tips, tools and resources to protect your home year round from all natural disaster hazards including winter risks, spring floods, wildfires, tornados and more,.

The nonprofit Federal Alliance for Safe Homes, Inc. – FLASH® is a 501(c)3 collaboration of organizations dedicated to strengthening homes and safeguarding families from natural and manmade disaster. Based in Tallahassee, FLASH is the nation's fastest-growing disaster safety education organization with more than 100 partners including the Federal Emergency Management Agency, Florida Division of Emergency Management, The Home Depot, International Code Council, National Weather Service, Renaissance Reinsurance, Simpson Strong-Tie, State Farm, USAA and WeatherPredict Consulting, Inc. In 2008, FLASH opened the interactive weather experience; StormStruck: A Tale of Two Homes®. To learn more about FLASH and access their free consumer resources, visit [www.flash.org](http://www.flash.org) call (877) 221-SAFE (7233).

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