

South Tipperary County Council

Advice to the Community:

We would like to offer the following advice and tips:

Precautions

- Check that your household contents insurance is up to date should any damage be caused to your contents due to a burst pipe
- Check to make sure you have enough fuel for a cold spell
- Have some extra food that will keep and some bottled water.
- Consider getting some extra essential medicines
- Have a torch and a radio with fresh batteries
- Have a list of emergency numbers you might need
- Have your boiler serviced and your radiators bled.
- Get your chimney cleaned and change your smoke alarm batteries
- Dress warmly, eat well and have sensible footwear.

The Car:

- Check the forecast before you leave, consider is it sensible to travel?
- Make sure you have lots of fuel, your lights are all working and that it is in good order generally, including antifreeze.
- Drive slowly and carefully, especially on minor roads
- Have a torch, a rug or spare coat in the car, a high-vis vest and have your phone well charged up.

Walking:

- If there is bad ice consider do you need to go out?
- Consider shopping for elderly neighbours
- Make sure you have reflective clothing or a jacket when walking.

In the house:

- Fill the bath and some containers if there is a danger of your water supply freezing
- Use a fire guard with an open fire
- Make sure you have some ventilation in the room with the fire/stove.

Pets and Wildlife

- Remember to take care of pets
- You could put out some food and water for the birds

How to avoid frozen pipes:

- Wrap a towel around the outside tap
- Leave heating on longer than normal
- Place a piece of insulation e.g. carpet/matting over your external stopcock
- Let some heat into the attic space by opening the hatch cover

If pipes are burst or frozen:

Frozen Pipes

- Turn off the water supply – please make yourself aware of where the **stop water valve** is in your property
- Protect anything around the pipe that appears to be frozen to avoid damage if it does burst
- Open the tap nearest the part of the pipe you think is frozen so that the water can flow through when ice has thawed
- Thaw the ice in the pipe with a hot water bottle
- If the heating system is frozen, do not light a fire or turn on a burner

Burst Pipes

- Turn off the water supply
- Drain the system – turn on all your cold taps
- Switch off the central heating, immersion heater and any other water heating systems
- If water leaks near the electrics or electrical appliances, switch off the mains immediately. If wet do not touch them.

If you have a burst pipe call a plumber and electrician, if required, to repair the damage

Neighbours:

Work with your neighbours to

- keep footpaths clear
- visit the elderly and sick to make sure they are all right

Information:

- South Tipperary Co Co will publish weather updates about road conditions and water supply on the website www.southtippcoco.ie for all local authorities in South Tipperary.
- A map of treated roads will be published frequently.
- Members of the public can follow us on Twitter to receive updates to their Twitter account or mobile phone. Visit www.southtippcoco.ie

Useful websites: Road Safety Authority (<http://www.rsa.ie/>), Dept. of Transport (<http://www.transport.ie/>), HSE (<http://www.hse.ie/eng/>), AA Roadwatch (www.aaireland.ie)

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