



News Around The Water Tower

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Rural Water District No. 2
Miami County, KS
25290 Harmony Road Paola, KS 66071

Winter Is Just Around the Corner-Are You Ready?

Winterize Your Home

So you are unpacking your sweaters, finding your hat and mittens, stocking up on hot chocolate, getting ready for winter, but is your house prepared for the cold months ahead?

Preparing your house for winter can protect it from the elements and help save money on heating costs. Here are some things to consider:

- Inspect your home for sources of potential cold infiltration and heat loss.
- Caulk around windows and door glass and trim. Install or replace weather stripping on all doors and windows. Install storm windows if you have them.
- Check for cracks around pipes and electrical outlets on perimeter walls. Caulk or insulate to stop cold air from seeping in.
- Secure all crawl space openings or windows.
- Check gutters and clean if necessary.
- Replace any roof shingles that are missing or damaged.
- Trim trees away from the house. Remove dead trees and branches.
- Disconnect all hoses from the faucets. Drain the hose bibs and your sprinkler systems. Install insulation covers on all exterior faucets.
- Have your heating system checked and replace all filters. Check attic vent openings for nests or other blockages.
- Remove, cover and winterize all air conditioning units.
- Check your chimneys, clean if necessary. To keep cold air out, keep the chimney or stove damper closed when the fireplace or stove are not in use.

How To Prevent Frozen Pipes

Frozen pipes can be a nightmare and can cause major water damage if they burst. A few preventive steps can help you avoid the problem.

Locate pipes that are susceptible to freezing and turn off valves in case a broken pipe does occur.

Apply electrically powered heat tape; this will ensure protection against frozen pipes in the coldest weather as long as the utilities are on. Apply the tape in a spiral pattern following the manufacturer's recommendations.

Warm the area with a heat lamp if all the pipes are concentrated in one small space.

Use foam rubber or fiberglass insulation to cover all exposed lengths and joints of pipe if the electrical solutions are inappropriate. Secure the sections of insulations with tape as needed. Rubber insulation is less expensive and easier to work with, but not the best product if used in conjunction with heat tape since it doesn't provide any vapor barrier. Fiberglass insulation is the better insulator. Be sure to wear gloves, goggles and a dust mask to protect yourself from fiberglass' irritating qualities. Remember insulation is designed to retain the heat that is

already in the pipe. It cannot add heat.

Prevent drafts of winter air by closing off openings and seal any leaks that allow cold air inside.

If the pipes or house is not used during the cold winter months, drain the plumbing system. A drained system is the only way to avoid a freeze up. Drain and shut off outside water faucets. If you are going to be gone have someone check your house and pipes regularly.

Let hot and cold water trickle at night from a faucet on an outside wall.



How To Thaw a Frozen Pipe

Burst pipes are bad news for your home. Both metal and plastic pipes can freeze and burst. When your pipes freeze, fast actions may prevent you from having to call your plumber and insurance agent.

To relieve any pressure and determine how extensive the problem is open all faucets. If only one fixture is not working you can assume that the pipe is frozen somewhere between that fixture and the line that leads to others. Shut all faucets except the one nearest the pipe that is frozen.

Wrap the pipe in a towel and secure it with duct tape. Pour boiling water over the towel. Repeat until water has thawed and runs through faucet.

Or you can wrap the pipe with a heating pad or place a heat lamp next to it.

You can also try a handheld hair dryer or a small electric heater applying direct heat to the pipe.

Warm the pipes slowly wherever you have access to them. Work from an open faucet toward the frozen area.

When the pipe has thawed, let the water run for a minute or two. Then turn the faucet off. Look for leaks everywhere you can see. Listen very carefully for hissing sounds where hidden pipes pass through walls or floors.

If you think there is a leak, locate the shut off valve for the affected area or shut off the water main. Turn the faucet on to relieve pressure and drain the affected pipe. Be sure to turn the faucet back off once the line has been bled.

Make the necessary repairs and take steps to prevent reoccurrence.

Never use an electrical device while standing or working in water.

Avoid using torches or heat guns. Too much heat can also generate steam, which in turn can increase pressure inside the pipe and cause it to burst.

RWD #2 GROWTH AROUND CITIES

Route 11

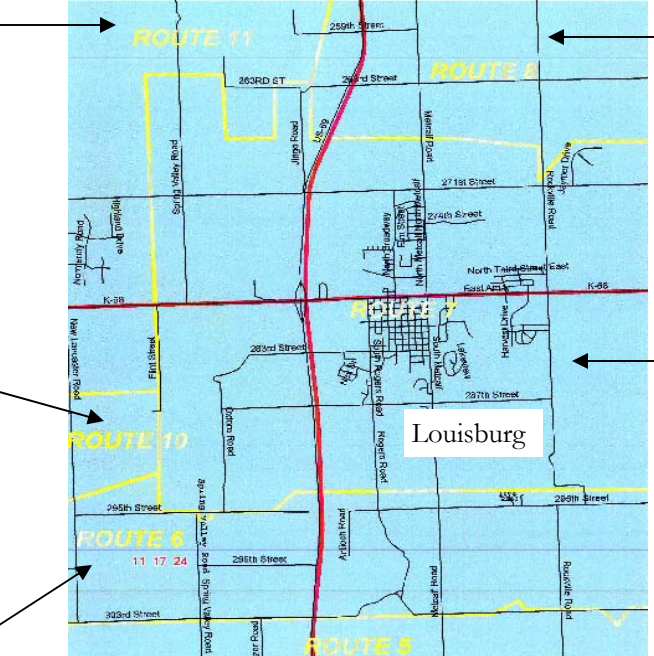
Year	% Growth
2003	5.3%
2004	3.6%
2005	4.0%
2006	3.5%
2007	2.0%

Route 10

Year	% Growth
2003	1.1%
2004	0%
2005	1.1%
2006	0%
2007	0%

Route 6

Year	% Growth
2003	1.9%
2004	3.2%
2005	.6%
2006	3.1%
2007	1.2%



Route 8

Year	% Growth
2003	2.7%
2004	2.1%
2005	2.1%
2006	1%
2007	.5%

Route 7

Year	% Growth
2003	2.6%
2004	2.5%
2005	2.9%
2006	1.4%
2007	.5%

Miami County has seen good growth over the past couple of decades, however this illustration shows actual RWD #2's growth around the cities of Paola and Louisburg has decreased. The data for 2008 is still incomplete, but appears to show less growth than 2007. There are many factors affect the growth within this area and the rest of the county as well. During these tough economic times the growth will continue to take major hits. The District will continue to protect and insure it's territory and your water quantity and quality.

Route 20

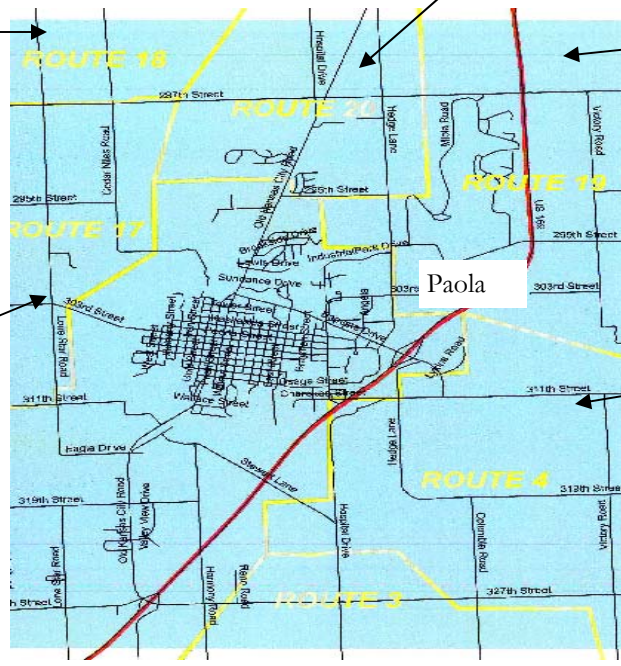
Year	% Growth
2003	0%
2004	0%
2005	0%
2006	0%
2007	1.0%

Route 18

Year	% Growth
2003	2.5%
2004	1.2%
2005	2.4%
2006	0%
2007	0%

Route 17

Year	% Growth
2003	0%
2004	4.5%
2005	.7%
2006	1.4%
2007	1.4%



Route 19

Year	% Growth
2003	2.0%
2004	1.0%
2005	3.9%
2006	3.7%
2007	2.3%

Route 4

Year	% Growth
2003	3.9%
2004	0%
2005	3.8%
2006	1.5%
2007	.7%