

Notice

Date: 3-07-14

To: Plumbing and Jetting Companies

Cc: Owatonna Building Inspections

From: Ronnie Johnson, Director of Engineering

RE: Temporary Requirements for thawing of water lines involving a Cross Connection to the Public Water Supply.



Owatonna has experienced extreme cold conditions this year that has forced frost to penetrate to levels that have been freezing our water mains and the customer's water services. We have not experienced this condition in previous years. We have determined that these frozen water lines are creating an emergency condition to our customers.

In dealing with these frozen water lines we are being made aware of methods that are being used to thaw out these lines in an emergency state. One of the most effective methods involves making a direct connection into the public water supply to either flow a heated water through the line to melt the ice or to utilize high pressure jetting equipment to cut through the ice. Both of these methods are considered a direct cross connection to the public water supply and are in violation of our Cross Connection and Backflow Prevention Policy. As we have determined this to be an emergency condition, we have temporarily waived this method as a violation to our policy if the following guidelines and conditions are met.

OPU has outlined the following minimum guidelines that shall be followed when creating a cross connection in efforts to re-establish a frozen water line. The contractor completing the work is ultimately responsible to assure that they are not introducing materials into the public potable water supply that may be detrimental to public health. If you choose to complete this work you must be aware of the responsibility and liability that you are taking on.

- 1.) OPU shall be notified **prior** to the work taking place to inform us that you are going to be creating a cross connection. **You can call 507-451-1616 – 24hrs/day.**
- 2.) The water that is being injected into the water line must be sanitary and come from a potable water source. The water may not contain any chemicals other than a chlorine bleach solution. The water must be chlorinated to a level of 200ppm with standard 5% household bleach. The 200ppm may be achieved by using 1gal of household bleach to 200 gallons of water. Please refer to manufactures directions for exact mixing directions, precautions and protective equipment that may be necessary when working with this chemical and at these elevated levels.

- 3.) The hose and nozzles that are used for this process must be dedicated for use with water lines. The hose and nozzles must not have ever been used for other applications including sanitary and storm sewers.
- 4.) The hose and nozzles must be sanitized with a 100% household bleach in a clean tote or tub by either a complete immersion or by a course spray from a pump sprayer. This hose shall be sanitized immediately prior to insertion into the pipe and shall remain in the tote at all times. The hose shall not be allowed to be fed from the floor or ground.
- 5.) The technician shall wear disposable plastic gloves while handling the sanitized hose and take care in maintaining the gloves sanitary condition. New clean gloves shall be put on anytime that the technician is required to handle unsanitary tools or equipment.
- 6.) After the line has been de-iced and the line is flowing, the water line shall be flushed for a minimum of 10 minutes to remove the concentrated chlorine solution and ice particles. The line shall be flushed before the meter to avoid damage to the meter and the customer equipment.

It is your responsibility to take the necessary precautions while working with the equipment and chemicals. You must follow all manufactures recommendations and safety requirements. OPU does not assume any liability for damage to either person or property in the use of these guidelines.

This Notice shall expire on May 1, 2014.

Please contact me at 507-446-5437 if you have any questions in regards to this Notice.



Ronnie Johnson – Director of Engineering