

Toms River, NJ  
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## **SUEZ REMINDS RESIDENTS THAT SEVERE RECORD-SHATTERING COLD CAN CAUSE PIPE BREAKS**

### **Customers Are Urged to Take Precautions During Current Winter Weather Conditions**

SUEZ is reminding its customers that this week's freezing winter weather, coupled with the National Weather Service's prediction for an upcoming powerful storm system for coastal sections of New Jersey, is potential for water lines in homes, businesses and underground infrastructures to crack.

"Because of this unusually cold weather pattern, our crews have been fighting freezing temperatures, responding to outages, emergencies and repairing multiple water leaks around the clock in our service territory," said Jim Mastrokalos, Director of Operations. "It is critical that our residents know that these bitter cold temperatures can cause major plumbing ruptures, and customers must take immediate steps now in preventing possible fractures in their homes and businesses," he added.

Mastrokalos added that although SUEZ crews are always ready and available in the event of emergencies throughout the service area, customers are responsible for plumbing on their own properties.

SUEZ recommends that customers **run a constant, thin stream of tap water** from a location farthest from the water meter to safeguard lines. Opening kitchen and bathroom cabinet doors to gradually allow warmer air to circulate around plumbing is also helpful.

Mastrokalos said that because water expands as it freezes, it potentially prevents water from flowing properly, resulting in cracks to water lines. He added that if residents notice water leaks on their premises or in streets they should immediately contact the company's customer service toll-free number at 1-877-565-1456, social media sites, Facebook- SUEZ Water South Jersey and Twitter - @SUEZWaterSJ.

Household plumbing, water meters and pipes located on outside walls, basements or crawl spaces can also be affected, leading to costly repairs. To prevent pipes subject to cold or freezing from cracking or breaking, SUEZ advises to wrap them in commercial insulation or heat tape available at local hardware stores. If a vacation is being planned it is important to set the thermostat to at least a minimal heat setting in homes and businesses to help protect pipes during temperature drops and changeability.

If residents are uncertain about their home pipelines or plumbing system's endurance during the cold months or in the course of weather fluctuations, contacting a certified plumbing contractor can help safeguard homes and prevent unwelcome bursting pipes and water damage.

## About SUEZ in North America

SUEZ in North America operates across all 50 states and Canada with 3,350 employees dedicated to environmental sustainability and leading the resource revolution. The company provides drinking water, wastewater and waste collection service to 7.3 million people on a daily basis; treats 577 million gallons of water and 997 million gallons of wastewater each day; delivers water treatment and advanced network solutions to 16,000 industrial and municipal sites; processes 55,000 tons of waste for recycling; rehabilitates and maintains water assets for more than 4,000 municipal and industrial customers; and manages \$4.2 billion in total assets. The company posted revenues of \$1.275 billion in 2016 and is a subsidiary of Paris-based SUEZ.

## SUEZ

With 90 000 people on the five continents, SUEZ is a world leader in smart and sustainable resource management. We provide water and waste management solutions that enable cities and industries optimize their resource management and strengthen their environmental and economic performances, in line with regulatory standards. To meet increasing demands to overcome resource quality and scarcity challenges, SUEZ is fully engaged in the resource revolution. With the full potential of digital technologies and innovative solutions, the Group recovers 17 million tons of waste a year, produces 3.9 million tons of secondary raw materials and 7 TWh of local renewable energy. It also secures water resources, delivering wastewater treatment services to 58 million people and reusing 882 million m<sup>3</sup> of wastewater. SUEZ generated total revenues of \$18 billion in 2016.

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