



G. S. Jones



Restoration • Consulting

PA State Lic. # 315

Rebuilding with Confidence

January 2013

G. S. Jones Turns Celebrations into Donations

Thanks to a great idea from staff accountant Doreen Carraway, G. S. Jones personnel were able to donate a large number of cans of food to a local food pantry which were collected as votes for our Holiday office door decorating contest. Doreen suggested we vote by way of canned goods for our favorite door or doors with encouragement to vote as often as you like.



Congratulations to the project managers with a collective effort for the winning door that was very creative incorporating a small suspended Christmas Tree in a hole cut in a gift wrapped plywood door.

Overall there were 192 cans collected and donated turning Doreen's suggestion into a success and a lot of fun was had by all who participated.



Pipe Bursts: A Cold Weather Problem with Large Loss Potential

No homeowner ever wants to discover a water pipe burst since the leaking water can result in significant damage to the surrounding area of the structure and getting the leak fixed can also be expensive if a professional plumber needs to be called.

When water freezes, it expands. Did you ever leave a can of soda in the freezer to chill it quickly and forget it was in there? The result is usually exploded soda all over everything in the freezer. Just like the soda can eventually bursts from the expansion of the liquid inside a closed environment, water pipes are subject to the same results if water freezes inside of them.

Surprisingly, ice forming in a pipe does not always cause a break where the ice blockage occurs. It usually occurs "downstream" of the water flow between the ice blockage and a closed faucet. The cumulative effect of freezing and thawing causes increased pressure which weakens the pipe and eventual failure occurs often where little or no ice has formed.

So when is it cold enough for pipes to freeze? Studies by the Building Research Council at the University of Illinois conducted field tests of residential water systems subjected to winter temperatures demonstrated that for uninsulated pipes installed in an unconditioned attic, the onset of freezing occurred when the outside temperature fell to 20° F or below.



A consensus of 71 professional plumbers supports the findings that pipe bursts begin to appear when the outside temperature drops into the teens. However, freezing incidents can occur when the temperature is above the 20 degree mark.

Pipes exposed to cold air because of cracks in a wall or lack of insulation are especially vulnerable to freezing if the exposure is prolonged or if the air is flowing such as on a windy day.

Water freezes when heat in the water is transferred to subfreezing air. The best way to keep pipes from freezing is to slow or stop the transfer of the heat from the water to the air.

The good news for homeowners is that most pipes are protected from bursting because they are located in areas of the structure that are protected from freezing temperatures or are covered with insulation.

A New Year Brings a First for G. S. Jones Extended Family

G. S. Jones is very excited to extend best wishes and congratulations to our very own Elaine Sweitzer and her husband Jeff, on the birth of their first grandchild, Hiley Addison Katris.

The proud grandparents announced the birth of Hiley on January 5, 2013, at 3:11 pm, weighing 7 lbs 15 oz and measuring 21 inches long. She is the first child of their daughter Erica and her husband Derek who live in the Columbus, OH area.

Elaine is a cleaning technician at G. S. Jones and has been with the company for 4 years. She and her husband Jeff live in Independence Twp. in Beaver county, PA and Elaine says that despite the long distance to her daughter's house, she receives daily updates and there are plenty of pictures.



Hiley Addison Katris

FUN FACTS

you always wanted to know...

- If you yelled for 8 years, 7 months and 6 days, you would produce enough sound energy to heat one cup of coffee.
- It's possible to lead a cow upstairs... but not downstairs.
- A pregnant goldfish is called a twit.
- Banging your head against a wall uses 150 calories an hour.

Pipe Bursts... cont.

If you have pipes that are vulnerable to freezing conditions there are recommended mitigation practices to help avoid burst pipes.

In lieu of having a plumber come to re-route the plumbing which would be very costly and most likely not practical, wrapping accessible pipes in insulation will help slow heat loss but cold water lines will need some source of heat to prevent freezing.

Cracks and holes in any outside walls and foundations near water pipes should be sealed with caulking or filled with insulation or even spray foam insulation.

Kitchen or bathroom cabinet doors can be left open during cold spells to allow warmer air to circulate through the cabinets keeping pipes protected where the doors would normally keep the warm air away from the pipes inside the cabinets.

Electric heating tapes and cables are another option but use with extreme caution, be sure to follow manufacturer instructions to avoid the risk of fire.

Opening a faucet to let the faucet drip will not guarantee the water will not freeze but it will provide pressure relief if the water does freeze.

If you suspect you have a frozen pipe



it may be best to call a plumber to have it repaired before it bursts. If the pipe does burst, shut the water off at the main shut-off valve. This is usually located at the water meter or where the water enters the house.

Do not try to thaw a frozen water line with an open flame as it will either damage the pipe or possibly start a fire. Using a hand-held hair dryer to slowly thaw the pipe is better with heat applied slowly. Open the faucet and start close to the faucet and work toward the frozen section of pipe. **DO NOT use electrical appliances while standing in water as there will be a risk of electrocution.**

Last but not least, G. S. Jones can handle any clean-up or damages from pipe bursts if one occurs in your home or building. Just give us a call any time of the day or night. We are always on-call.



8347 Ohio River Boulevard * Pittsburgh, PA 15202
412-766-6886 * Fax 412-766-7878
www.gsjonesrestoration.com

If we have inadvertently left someone from your office off our Quarterly newsletter list please let us know by providing us the email address to: gsjones@gsjonesrestoration.com

If you would like to review a past copy of one of our newsletters please visit our website at www.gsjonesrestoration.com/newsletters/