

From Tuesday, January 29 through Thursday, January 31, the Skokie area will experience sub-zero temperatures and wind chills that residential heating systems are not designed to handle.

Newer homes will struggle to maintain temperature and older homes will not maintain temperature, and the indoor temperature will drop while the heating system is working at full capacity.

Here are some tips to help during this period of extreme cold:

- Raise the temperature in your home on Monday, January 28, to two to four degrees above your normal setting.
- Take all programmable thermostats out of setback mode and set on a permanent hold of at least 70 degrees.
- If you have a furnace, change the filter.
- Keep garage doors closed.
- Hang a blanket over drafty windows
- Limit opening exterior doors.
- Make sure air vents and radiators are not blocked or obstructed.
- If you have a 90%+ furnace and boiler, you must keep the intake and exhaust clear of ice and snow. During extreme cold, ice can build up. A 90%+ furnace and boiler has two white PVC pipes, an exhaust pipe and an intake pipe that are usually on the side or back of homes. In some instances, these pipes are on the roof, and residents are NOT advised to go on their roof to clear the pipe.
- Open sink cabinet doors to help keep pipes from freezing.
- Keep a small trickle of water running, both hot and cold, in all faucets to prevent freezing pipes.

If the temperature in your home is dropping and your radiators are hot with boiler systems or if you have hot air coming out of your vents with furnaces, do not panic. Please make sure that your heating system continues to operate.

If the temperatures drop in your home, it will not be able to recover until temperatures rise and the wind chill diminishes. Residential heating systems struggle to overcome temperatures of minus 20 or 30 degrees, and wind chill up to minus 50 degrees.

To help minimize temperature loss, you can boil water, make soups or stews as all of these actions help introduce humidity and warmer temperatures into your home. **Do not use your oven or a grill to heat your home, and only use space heaters under supervision as approved.**

Please check on neighbors and elderly residents during these extreme temperatures. Please stay warm and safe this week, and share this information with neighbors, family and friends.