



"THE ICE STORM OF 2008:



THE POWER IS BACK ON—BUT THE HEADACHES CONTINUE"

There have been freezing cold mornings and rotted food, days without showers and a limit to how often people can flush their toilets—all problems that Monadnock Region residents without power have suffered with for up to 12 days. Power is now being turned on across the region, but for some, this is when the real headaches start.

"There have been a ton of burst pipes," said Lynne B. Keating, owner of Keating Plumbing and Heating in Marlborough. Local plumbers and electricians say they have seen a surge in business due to outages throughout the region.

As power is restored to homes that have been nearly frozen for a week or more, pipes can burst, plugged-in appliances can create electrical hazards and houses can flood. "We've been busier than we've been in a long time," Keating said. Last weekend, there were three different crews out working—normally, Keating said, it's just one person on call. "It's just going to be busier and busier as more power comes on," she said.

From a plumbing standpoint, Keating said the biggest problem for homeowners is split or burst pipes, which can happen as power is restored and frozen pipes begin to thaw.

If homeowners drained their pipes before the storm hit or had antifreeze in their heating system, burst pipes probably won't occur, she said. But if a home's pipes are full of water when power comes back on, there is the potential for a leak.



Notice & Wonder

- Circle any words you don't know and look them up in a dictionary.
- How does the ice storm continue to affect people, even weeks later?
- How can people protect themselves and their homes from ice damage?

Source: This excerpt of a newspaper article was written by Jessica Arriens and Anika Clark and published in the *Keene Sentinel* on December 25, 2008. This article refers to the ice storm that struck New Hampshire on December 11–12, 2008.



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