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Freezing Temperatures Cause \$70 Million in Losses

Most Texas homeowners were prepared for the recent sub freezing temperatures that dipped into single digits in parts of the state over the weekend. But many others were not so fortunate. Approximately 10,000 Texas homes received water damage as a result of frozen water pipes.

The freezing weather is expected to reach an estimated \$70 million in insured losses statewide. The average homeowner loss in north Texas was estimated at \$9,000, while average homeowner losses in Central and southern Texas were estimated at \$5,000. Homeowner losses from frozen water pipes were reported as far south as San Antonio.

“I think the damage was fairly limited because Texans had plenty of notice that a hard freeze was coming our way,” said Mark Hanna, a spokesman for the Insurance Council of Texas. “Obviously, taking a few minutes to protect your home from freezing temperatures is worth it.”

A spokesman for the National Weather Service in Forth Worth said the Artic cold front hit the state Thursday. Dalhart reported minus 2 Friday morning, while Marfa in west Texas had 3 degrees. Saturday morning, Junction had 8 degrees, Austin Bergstrom Airport reported 10 degrees and Houston Hobby Airport reported 21 degrees. Freezing temperatures were reported as far south as Brownsville which had 28 degrees on Saturday.

The freezing temperatures are expected to give way to significant rain showers for central and south Texas beginning Wednesday.

The Insurance Council of Texas is the largest state insurance trade association in the country consisting of more than 500 property and casualty insurers writing business in Texas. For more information turn to ICT’s Web site at www.insurancecouncil.org.

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