

Line Freeze Kit for the Win!
By Mike Stanzel, Circuit Rider

20 Years!!! Yes, that's right, for 20 years a homeowner has worried about his curb stop that has not been able to be located and about what would happen if the valve in his house became inoperable? Well, this nightmare became a reality, when a faucet needed to be replaced in his house and his ¾ inch valve would not turn without fear of breaking it.

Here is the story. PeopleService took over managing the town's water and sewer system in the early months of 2000. I, myself, spent time looking for this particular water shut off several times when I was an operator for PeopleService. Over the years there were several different operators, all of whom spent numerous hours searching for this curb stop with no success. I came to work for NeRWA in 2008 and again spent countless number of times over the years searching for the shutoff and came to the conclusion that it was plastic.

Recently we were contacted by the city clerk to help locate 5 remaining curb stops so they could complete their installation of new water meters and, you guessed it, this one was on the list. Well, this time I even brought in some reinforcements, Randy and Pat, who have a combined 107 years of experience in the water business. LOL and we still could not find this line.

I finally made contact with the homeowner and made an appointment to meet him at his house to see for myself what this line is made of. Well, low and behold, it was copper, so I attached my locator and was able to trace the line out the front of the residence. So I'm thinking a SLAM DUNK. I will find the curb stop. NO!!!

By this time the homeowner was desperate to get something done. So I scheduled an appointment to return with our freeze kit, freeze the line and install a new valve in his house along with a new updated water meter. This time a HUGE SUCCESS! The job was completed in a short time, the homeowner was extremely grateful for our assistance and he said he definitely sleeps better at night knowing his water shut off works.

By the way, we still can't find the curb stop! (TO BE CONTINUED)