

PIPE FREEZING

Ever have one of those pipe repair projects where it appears there is just no way to shut the water off to do the work? Well, NeRWA just may be able to help. Thanks to the generosity of Ed Dvorak and the Village of Dorchester, NeRWA now has a CO2 pipe freezing kit. The kit allows us the capability to freeze up to a 3inch line. We have used the kit on a couple of occasions and it has worked very well. The first time we put it to use was to install a meter on a ¾” line at a booster pump for the Little Blue Water Project. Most recently we utilized the kit to assist with the installation of a new 3” service line valve for a high rise apartment complex in Broken Bow.

As I stated earlier, on both occasions it worked very well. One thing to keep in mind, the water must be motionless in the pipe. Another stipulation is that the water cannot be warm, i.e. next to a water heater. One lesson we have learned is that it often requires more CO2 than what the directions call for. In Broken Bow for instance, we froze a 21/2” copper line in three places and went through 4 50# bottles of CO2. The cost of the CO2 is approximately \$30.00 per 50# cylinder. NeRWA tries to keep a 20lb. cylinder on hand. This will normally freeze a 1” line. The line will stay frozen for approximately 30 minutes. If this is not sufficient time to complete the repairs, the line can be kept frozen but of course that requires more CO2 . We will be requesting that the system supply the CO2. The tank must be equipped with a dip tube so as to draw the liquid off of the bottom. If you have a location that you think this kit would be helpful give us a call. We will be more than willing to help.