Arctic blast to return tonight

Pipes at mercy of freeze once again

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Here it comes – again.

A deep freeze will hit the Upstate this week, sending low temperatures into the teens and highs only to the 30s, forecasters said.

The National Weather Service said an arctic high pressure system will bring well-below normal temperatures and revive nightmarish memories of broken pipes, water leaks and frantic calls to plumbers and insurance adjusters.

In the cold wave earlier this month, "Every plumber and restoration company in the Upstate was inundated with too many requests for emergency service than we could handle," said Dan Driscoll, owner of Paul Davis Restoration and Remodeling of the Upstate.

Catching up on drying out homes and businesses and conducting repairs "is taxing our businesses, our sub-contractors and our materials suppliers," he said.

The earlier cold snap produced a record low of 5 degrees on Jan. 7, according to weather service data. It also led to school delays, postponed garbage pickup and shivers up and down Main Street.

The coming cold rush isn't expected to be as severe. But forecasters warned not to be

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lulled by today's expected high temperature of near 50.

A front will push through the area, followed by much colder high pressure Wednesday through Friday, they said. It will be breezy this morning, but winds will pick up and could gust as high as 33 mph later today, meteorologists said.

The low tonight will be around 16 degrees, forecasters said.

The high Wednesday will be near 35.

Thursday, the high will be near 43 and the low that night will be around 16, forecasters said.

On Friday, the high temperature should only reach near 34.

Chris Horne, a National Weather Service meteorologist in Greer, said, "it's going to take awhile – into the weekend" for temperatures to return to near normal.

Saturday and Sunday should be mostly sunny, with highs in the 40s, forecasters said.

The Greenville Fire Department urges residents to keep anything that can burn at least three feet away from heating equipment such as a furnace, fireplace, wood stove or portable space heater.

Fire officials also said residents should have a three-foot "kid-free zone" around open fires and space heaters, never use an oven to heat a home and remember to turn portable heaters off when leaving the room or going to bed.