PROVISIONS FOR ELECTRICAL THAWING

In order to provide electrical conductivity from one rubber gasket pipe joint to another for the purpose of thawing frozen water mains, some specifications require that ductile iron (DI) pipe be furnished with a device that will be able to provide such conductivity. The accessories and methods indicated in this document provide such connectivity for both Push-On Joints and Mechanical Joints.

CABLE BOND CONDUCTOR

Cable Bond provides positive electrical conductivity across the joints of both Push-On and Mechanical Joint pipe and fittings. The copper cable will carry 500-600 amps for an extended period of time. The cable is sufficiently flexible to simplify assembly and to withstand ground and pipe movement after installation. Easy to install, it makes a positive, lasting connection. Detailed information and assembly instructions will be furnished upon request.

CAUTION: Electrically discontinuous rubber gasket joints effectively inhibit the accumulation of stray direct current on the DI pipe. An accumulation of stray current can result in electrolytic corrosion of the pipeline. The use of joint bonding devices to allow electrical thawing can therefore increase the susceptibility of the pipe to damage from this type of corrosion.

SERRATED SILICON BRONZE WEDGES

When so specified, serrated bronze wedges are provided for electrical thawing: two per joint, for 3-inch through 12-inch pipe; four for larger diameter pipe. Each wedge is driven into the opening between the plain end and the bell until snug. When four wedges are used, they are inserted side by side, in pairs.

WARNING: Electrical thawing of buried pipes should never be attempted by inexperienced persons. The large currents necessary to effectively thaw a frozen pipe can cause serious damage to electrical wiring systems that are grounded to the buried pipes. In addition, there is a serious risk of personal injury or electrocution if proper precautions are not taken.