

Winter Storm Safety



Winter storms can range from moderate snow over a few hours to blizzard conditions with blinding, wind-driven snow or freezing rain that lasts several days. The time to prepare is *before* the snow falls or ice forms!

Preparing for winter storms

- * Listen to your radio or television for winter storm forecasts and other information.
- * Prepare your home for cold weather. Install storm windows. Insulate outside walls, attics and crawl spaces. Repair leaks in the roof, around the doors and in the windows.
- * Have appropriate cold weather clothing available.
- * If you have a kerosene heater, refuel it outside and remember to keep it at least three feet from flammable objects.
- * Have sand or rock salt on hand for traction on ice.
- * Be sure your gas tank is full before the snow starts falling and ensure vehicle has adequate antifreeze.
- * Consider snow tires, chains or studded tires for your vehicle.

Injuries Due to Ice and Snow

- * **About 70% result from vehicle accidents**
- * **About 25% occur in people caught out in a storm.**
- * **Most happen to males over 40 years old**

~ National Weather Service ~

During a winter storm

- * Wear several layers of loose fitting, light weight, warm clothing rather than one layer of heavy clothing. Make sure to keep your head covered.
- * Do not drive unnecessarily.
- * Heat only the areas of your home that you are using. Close doors and curtains.

National Weather Service Terms:

Winter Storm Watch – *Winter storm conditions are possible within the next 36-48 hours. Prepare now!*

Winter Storm Warning – *Life-threatening severe winter conditions have begun or will begin within 24 hours. Act now!*

Winter Storm Advisory – *Winter weather conditions are expected to cause significant inconveniences and may be hazardous. If you are cautious, these situations should not be life-threatening.*

Freezing Rain – *rain falls and freezes on cold surfaces as a sheet of ice.*

Sleet – *frozen precipitation melts and refreezes into sleet before hitting ground.*

Snow flurries – *light snow falling for short durations with little or no accumulation.*

Snow showers – *snow falling at varying intensities for brief periods of time, some accumulation.*

Snow squalls – *brief, intense snow showers with strong, gusty winds, significant accumulation.*

Blizzard – *winds of 35 mph or more with snow, reducing visibility to less than ¼ mile.*



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If you are in your vehicle

- ✦ Make sure someone knows where you are going. Stay on the main roads.
- ✦ If you must stop, remain inside the vehicle.
- ✦ If trapped in a blizzard, clear your tail pipe and run your engine and heater for ten minutes every hour. Open your window slightly.



- ✦ Keep an emergency kit in your vehicle. Include a three day supply of water and non-perishable food that can be eaten without cooking. Include a blanket or sleeping bag, a flashlight, cell phone, shovel, sack of sand or kitty litter, booster cables, flare and toilet paper.

Don't forget Fido!



Animals are affected by the cold too!

- ✓ Move animals to sheltered areas (wind chill affects animals too).
- ✓ Provide extra feed.
- ✓ Ensure availability of unfrozen water.

Watch Out For.....

Hypothermia – watch for slurred speech, disorientation, uncontrollable shivering and drowsiness. Move arms, legs, fingers and toes vigorously from time to time to keep blood circulating.

Frostbite – loss of feeling, pale or white appearance in extremities (fingers, toes, ear lobes, tip of nose).

Wind Chill – how wind and cold feel on exposed skin. Wind carries heat away from the body at an accelerated rate, driving down the body temperature.



NWS Windchill Chart

