

Be Ready! Winter Weather

Weatherproof your home to protect against the cold.

Install a smoke detector and carbon monoxide detector in your home.

Have your chimney or flue inspected every year.

Make sure the batteries are working!

Insulate walls and attic.

Caulk and weather-strip doors and windows.

Check out more tips on winter weather indoor safety.

Never leave lit candles or other flames unattended.

Bring your pets indoors as temperatures drop!

Prepare yourself for exposure to winter weather.

Dress warmly and limit exposure to the cold to prevent frostbite.

Avoid getting wet to prevent hypothermia.

If power lines are down, call your local utility and emergency services

If power lines fall on your car, warn people not to touch the car or power lines.

Make sure your car is ready for winter travel.

Make a winter emergency kit to keep in your car.

Check antifreeze level and have radiator system serviced.

Replace worn tires and check tire air pressure.

Keep gas tank full to avoid ice in tank and fuel lines.

BE PREPARED!

BEFORE THE STORM STRIKES

At Home and Work

Primary concerns are loss of heat, power and telephone service and a shortage of supplies if storm conditions continue for more than a day.

Have available:

Flashlight and extra batteries.

Battery-powered NOAA Weather Radio and portable radio to receive emergency information. These may be your only links to the outside.

Extra food and water. Have high energy food, such as dried fruit, nuts and granola bars, and food requiring no cooking or refrigeration.

Extra medicine and baby items.

First-aid supplies.

Heating fuel. Refuel before you are empty. Fuel carriers may not reach you for days after a winter storm.

Emergency heat source: fireplace, wood stove, space heater.

- Use properly to prevent a fire.
- Ventilate properly.

Fire extinguisher, smoke alarm.

- Test smoke alarms once a month to ensure they work properly.

Make sure pets have plenty of food, water and shelter.

In Vehicles

Plan your travel and check the latest weather reports to avoid the storm!

Fully check and winterize your vehicle before the winter season begins.

Carry a WINTER STORM SURVIVAL KIT:

- Mobile phone, charger, batteries
- Blankets/sleeping bags
- Flashlight with extra batteries
- First-aid kit
- Knife
- High-calorie, non-perishable food
- Extra clothing to keep dry
- Large empty can to use as emergency toilet. Tissues and paper towels for sanitary purposes
- Small can and waterproof matches to melt snow for drinking water
- Sack of sand or cat litter for traction
- Shovel
- Windshield scraper and brush
- Tool kit
- Tow rope
- Battery booster cables
- Water container
- Compass and road maps.

Keep your gas tank near full to avoid ice in the tank and fuel lines.

Avoid traveling alone.

Let someone know your timetable and primary and alternate routes.

On the Farm/Pets

Move animals to sheltered areas.

Shelter belts, properly laid out and oriented, are better protection for cattle than confining shelters, such as sheds.

Haul extra feed to nearby feeding areas.

Have water available. Most animals die from dehydration in winter storms.

Make sure pets have plenty of food, water and shelter.



Glenn Field/NOAA



NOAA

Dress for the Season

Wear loose, lightweight, warm clothes in layers. Trapped air insulates. Remove layers to avoid perspiration and subsequent chill. Outer garments should be tightly woven, water repellent, and hooded. Wear a hat. Half your body heat loss can be from the head. Cover your mouth to protect your lungs from extreme cold. Mittens, snug at the wrist, are better than gloves. Try to stay dry.