



**PREPARE,
PLAN
AND
STAY SAFE
DURING THE
WINTER MONTHS**

- ❄️ Focus on Safety**
- ❄️ Winter Driving Tips**
- ❄️ Fire Safety**
- ❄️ Environmental Issues**

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BE PREPARED FOR EMERGENCIES

When preparing for a possible emergency situation, it is important to prepare an emergency supply kit that includes the basic needs for survival, develop a family emergency plan and be informed about the different types of emergencies that may occur where you live and the appropriate ways to respond to them.

1. Get a basic ready kit together that should have One gallon of water per person per day for three days - remember to include your pets too
2. Have at least a three day supply of non-perishable food. Select foods that require no refrigeration, preparation or cooking and little or no water
3. Choose foods that your family will eat, such as ready-to-eat canned meats, peanut butter, protein or fruit bars and dry cereal or granola bars. Also, pack a manual can opener and utensils
4. Battery powered or hand crank radio and a NOAA Weather Radio with tone alert and extra batteries for both
5. Flashlight with extra batteries
6. First Aid kit
7. Whistle to signal for help
8. Dust mask to help filter contaminated air and plastic sheeting and duct tape to shelter-in-place
9. Moist towelettes, garbage bags and plastic ties for personal sanitation needs
10. Wrench or pliers to turn off utilities
11. Local maps
12. Important family documents, such as copies of insurance policies, identification and bank account records; all in a waterproof, portable container

Don't forget about the special needs of family members:

1. Prescription medications and glasses
2. Infant formula and diapers
3. Books, games, puzzles or other activities for children

MAKE A PLAN: Preparing for a family emergency plan is simple. It will help your family to stay in contact if they are separated during an emergency. The plan should include physical addresses, phone numbers and evacuation locations for work, school and other most frequented locations. Remember to include phone and policy numbers for doctors, pharmacies, medical insurance and vet or kennels.

BE INFORMED: Being informed about the different type of emergencies that could happen where you live and the appropriate ways to respond to them will impact the decisions you make and the actions you take.

BE PREPARED FOR A FIRE EMERGENCY

In less than 30 seconds, a small flame can get completely out of control and turn into a major fire. It only takes minutes for a house to fill with thick black smoke and become engulfed in flames. By preparing for a fire emergency, you can greatly reduce your chances of becoming a fire casualty:

1. Install smoke alarms on every level of your home, including the basement and every sleeping areas
2. Test your smoke alarms once a month and change the batteries at least once a year
3. Replace smoke alarms every 8 to 10 years or as the manufacturer guidelines recommend
4. Plan your escape from the fire. Plan two ways to get out of a room
5. Practice fire escape plans several times a year. Practice feeling your way out of the house in the dark or with your eyes closed
6. Purchase only collapsible escape ladders evaluated by a nationally recognized laboratory (UL)
7. Check that all windows are not stuck, screens can be taken out quickly and that any security bars can be properly opened
8. Make sure that your family understands and practices how to properly operate and open locked or barred doors and windows
9. Consider installing residential fire sprinklers in your home

WINTER SAFETY TIPS

During the winter months our residents need to make sure that:

1. You do not use ovens, ranges or grills to supplement your heating devices
2. Install carbon monoxide detectors in every home to warn on deadly gas levels
3. Keep all space heating devices at least three feet away from other objects, such as furniture and draperies
4. Never fill kerosene heaters while hot or inside your home
5. Never use a space heater with an extension cord
6. Never keep candles burning when you are not home and keep them at least one foot away from anything that burns, especially your Christmas tree or decorations
7. Inspect and clean your chimney before each heating season

While driving in the winter season please remember to:

1. Be prepared for emergencies with a winter roadside kit in your vehicle
2. Emergency kits should include flares, jumper cables, water, food, first aid supplies, vehicle repair supplies and don't forget your pet's supplies
3. Have an alternative route for your trip and share this information with friends and families
4. Check your latest weather report before you leave home. Always have a charged

- cell phone with you
5. Drive defensively. If your car becomes disabled, stay with the vehicle and call for assistance. Only run the vehicle engine and heater at intervals to stay warm and make sure you open the vehicle window to avoid carbon monoxide build up

ENVIRONMENTAL WINTER ISSUES

Excessive salting of your sidewalks or driveway with deicing chemicals cannot only harm the surface of your sidewalk or driveway but can harm aquatic life in our streams and impact drinking water supplies. This winter you can help by following some environmentally friendly tips:

1. Shovel snow before it turns to ice to limit the need for deicing chemicals like rock salt
2. Shovel snow onto permeable surfaces, including sloping and level landscaping and grassy areas so that the snow melts into the ground rather than run off onto the roadway or into a storm drain or stream
3. Limit chemical application near environmentally sensitive areas, including streams, ponds and water supply areas
4. Remember to not use chemicals near your sensitive landscaping or vegetation areas
5. Sand or sawdust can be used as an environmentally friendly alternative to salt products
6. Use salt substitutes that are less harmful, including Calcium Chloride and Calcium Magnesium Acetate
7. Never sweep residues, including sand, in the storm drains and stream areas
8. Don't forget to empty your rain barrel so that this does not freeze and split open
9. Many deicing substances may be harmful to your pets, please read the directions on all deicing products for your pet's safety

HAVE A WONDERFUL AND SAFE WINTER SEASON!

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