

# WINTER STORMS



According to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), **571 people died in the United States** due to poor driving conditions and extreme cold between 1996 and 2011.

**PLAN AHEAD AND PROTECT YOURSELF AND YOUR FAMILY AGAINST WINTER STORMS!**

## EMERGENCY ALERT SYSTEM:

### \*\* WATCH OR WARNING? \*\*

A **WINTER STORM WATCH** is issued when severe weather conditions may affect your area. It is issued **12 to 36 hours** before the possibility of severe weather.

A **WINTER STORM WARNING** is issued when **4 or more inches of snow** is expected within the next 12 hours, **6 or more inches** within 24 hours, or **1/4 inch or more of ice accumulation**.



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A **BLIZZARD WARNING** is issued when winds are at **35 mph or greater**; large quantities of falling or blowing snow (reducing visibility) predicted to last for **3 hours or more**.



## BEFORE A WINTER STORM

- **Insulate exterior water lines to prevent freezing.** Know how to shut off water valves in case a pipe bursts.
- **Insulate walls and attics,** caulk and weather-strip doors and windows.
- **Secure an alternate heat source,** such as a kerosene heater, fireplace, or wood stove in case of a power outage.
- Have your **chimney inspected each year.**
- **Clear rain gutters,** remove branches that could fall during a storm, and repair roof leaks.
- **Make sure everyone knows the location** of fire extinguishers and how to use them.
- **Stock your home with several days' worth of food** that requires no cooking or refrigeration, clean water (5 gallons per

## DURING A WINTER STORM

- *The best approach to staying safe is to stay inside:*
  - **Keep space heaters 3 ft. away from anything flammable.** Ensure proper ventilation when using a kerosene heater. Never place a space heater on top of furniture.
  - If you lose power, **use battery-powered flashlights.** Never leave burning candles unattended.
  - **Charcoal or gas grills produce deadly fumes—do not use them indoors.**
  - **Close off unused rooms,** set the thermostat lower than normal, block cracks under doors, and close draperies at night.
  - **Infants and the elderly are at the highest risk of hypothermia (loss of body heat).** Make sure they are properly clothed and in a sufficiently warm room.
  - **Allow faucets to drip.** This will prevent pipes from freezing.

## AFTER A WINTER STORM

Monitor weather reports for when it's safe to travel again and be aware of road closures.

If you are moving around outdoors, be careful of ice and downed power lines.

Shovel snow safely.

Make sure you are properly hydrated and avoid caffeine or nicotine.

Stay informed and use caution.

## WINTERIZE YOURSELF

Wear a hat when going outside.

Wear several layers of loose-fitting, lightweight, but warm clothing.

Cover your mouth with a scarf to protect your lungs.

Outerwear should be water-resistant and made of tightly woven fabric.

## WINTER EMERGENCY CAR KIT

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|---|--|---|---|
|  | Shovel                                   |  | Windshield Scraper                                    |
|  | Blankets                                 |  | Flashlight & Batteries                                |
|  | Bottles of Water                         |  | Canned or Dried Foods (and can opener)                |
|  | First Aid Kit (for traction)             |  | Waterproof Matches                                    |
|  | Booster Cables                           |  | Compass   |
|  | Bag of Sand or Cat Litter (for traction) |  | Extra Socks, Hats, & Mittens                          |
|  | Cell Phone (and car charger)             |  | Tire Chains (in parts of the country with heavy snow) |
|  | Distress Flag                            |  | Tow Rope  |

**MINIMIZE THE RISK TO LIFE AND PROPERTY  
BE PREPARED FOR WINTER STORMS**