

# BE DISASTER AWARE, TAKE ACTION TO PREPARE!

Winter 2018 - 2019  
December, January & February



Winter storms can range from moderate snowfall to blizzard conditions with blinding snow. Many winter storms are associated with dangerously low temperatures and strong winds, which can result in widespread power outages and downed power lines. Be sure to report your power outage to your utility provider, and do not approach downed power lines.

If you have a medical emergency during a power outage, call 9-1-1.

## WINTER PREPAREDNESS TIPS:

- Be aware of symptoms of frostbite and hypothermia.
- When planning travel, be aware of weather and road conditions.
- Check on family and neighbors who are at risk from cold weather hazards.
- Eliminate the risk of overexertion while shoveling snow by taking frequent breaks.

### KNOW THE TERMS

Blizzard Warning: Strong winds of 35 mph or greater will produce blinding snow, near zero visibility, deep drifts and life-threatening conditions, especially for travelers.

Winter Storm Warning: Indicates heavy snow, heavy sleet, or a combination of winter weather hazards are highly likely or occurring.

Winter Storm Watch: Indicates severe winter weather such as heavy snow or ice is possible within a 36 to 48 hours.



Install carbon monoxide detectors in central locations of your home and outside sleeping areas.

Carbon monoxide detectors are not a substitute for smoke alarms. Install both types of alarms in your home.

## SPACE HEATER SAFETY

- Place space heaters on level, flat surfaces.
- Place space heaters out of high traffic areas and doorways.
- Inspect heaters for cracked or broken plugs before using.
- Always unplug and safely store the heater when it is not in use.
- Turn off space heaters when you leave a room and while sleeping.
- Plug space heaters directly into a wall outlet, never an extension cord.
- Never use space heaters to warm bedding, dry clothing or thaw pipes.
- Heaters should be kept at least three feet from flammable products such as rugs or clothing.
- Install smoke alarms outside and inside all sleeping areas, and test them monthly.



Winterize your vehicle by adding these items:

- Cell Phone Chargers
- Extra clothing or blankets
- Snow shovel and snow brushes
- Sand to improve traction
- First Aid Kit
- Jumper Cables
- Flashlights and extra batteries
- Hand Crank NOAA Weather Radio

## IF YOUR PIPES FREEZE

1. Shut off all water at the main source.
2. Call a plumber and contact your insurance agent.
3. Avoid a shock by powering down and unplugging electrical devices in the area where the water has entered.
4. Do your best to use towels, buckets or wet/dry vacuums to remove the water and contact a water damage restoration service.
5. Be sure to document any damage to your home.
6. **Never** try to thaw a frozen pipe with an open flame or torch.