

Winter Emergency Preparedness Tips

Vehicle Tips

- Have your vehicle winterized to decrease your chances of being stranded
 - Have a mechanic check your vehicle's ignition, exhaust, heating, brakes, lights, battery, and fluids
 - Check your tires to ensure they have good tread
- Keep extra supplies in your vehicle to keep you safe if you get stuck
 - A bag of sand or kitty litter to give you traction
 - A bright (preferably red) cloth to tie to your antenna
 - Warm clothing and a blanket
 - First aid supplies
 - A small snow shovel
- Keep your gas tank at least half full to keep the fuel line from freezing

Tips for the Home

- Keep stairs and walkways around your house shoveled or free from ice using ice melt (just remember that ice melt can stick to your shoes or your pets' paws... keep it cleaned up inside the home)
- Don't overexert yourself shoveling – take breaks and stay hydrated!
- Protect your pipes from freezing by keeping your thermostat no lower than 55 degrees, and during very cold days and nights, let each faucet drip or trickle
- Check your doors and windows to ensure weather stripping is intact
- Keep generators outdoors to avoid carbon monoxide poisoning
- Plug space heaters directly into an outlet, not an extension cord, and never leave space heaters unattended
- Bring your pets indoors – if you're cold, they are, too (unless you have a Siberian Husky!)

Outside the Home

- Pay attention to the weather when you're out and about
- Identify a local emergency shelter in case your heat or power go out
- Check on your neighbors, relatives, and friends during harsh weather, especially if they are elderly or live alone
- Wear seasonally appropriate clothing if you go outside – gloves, a hat, a warm jacket or coat, etc.
- Know the signs of hypothermia and frostbite as well as how to treat them
- Be careful walking in parking lots and on sidewalks; they can be slippery