

SEPTEMBER IS NATIONAL PREPAREDNESS MONTH

WINTER STORM PREPAREDNESS

Winter storms can range from a moderate snow over a few hours to a blizzard with blinding, wind-driven snow that lasts for several days. Some winter storms are large enough to affect several states, while others affect only a single community. Many winter storms are accompanied by dangerously low temperatures and sometimes by strong winds, icing, sleet and freezing rain. Regardless of the severity of a winter storm, you should be prepared in order to remain safe during these events. Know the difference: **Winter Storm Outlook** - winter storm conditions are possible in the next 2 to 5 days. **Winter Weather Advisory** - Winter weather conditions are expected to cause significant inconveniences and may be hazardous. When caution is used, these situations should not be life threatening. **Winter Storm Watch** - Winter storm conditions are possible within the next 36 to 48 hours. People in a watch area should review their winter storm plans and stay informed about weather conditions. **Winter Storm Warning** - Life-threatening, severe winter conditions have begun or will begin within 24 hours. People in a warning area should take precautions immediately.

What to do:

Dress in several layers of lightweight clothing, wear mittens and a hat (Preferably one that covers your ears).

Wear waterproof, insulated boots to keep your feet warm and dry and to maintain your footing in ice and snow.

Minimize travel. If travel is necessary, keep a disaster supplies kit in your vehicle.

Listen to Weather Radio or other local news channels for critical information from the National Weather Service.

Winterize your vehicle and keep the gas tank full. A full tank will keep the fuel line from freezing.

Insulate your home by installing storm windows or covering windows with plastic from the inside to keep cold air out.

Maintain heating equipment and chimneys by having them cleaned and inspected every year.

Bring pets/companion animals inside during winter weather. Move other animals or livestock to sheltered areas with non-frozen drinking water.

Running water, even at a trickle, helps prevent pipes from freezing.

All fuel-burning equipment should be vented to the outside and kept clear.

Frostbite and **hypothermia** are two dangerous and potentially life-threatening emergencies. Learn how to care for these emergencies by taking a first aid class.