



## In Case of Severe Winter Storms

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Blizzards and Nor'easter's are winter storms gone bad. They often start normally, with a weather advisory and then escalate to extreme amounts of wind driven snow lasting much longer than the initial storm was predicted to last.

Protect yourself, your family and your home by taking these precautions and knowing what to do when a blizzard hits.

### At Home

- Prepare for possible isolation in your home by having sufficient heating fuel; regular fuel sources may be cut off. Store a good supply of dry, seasoned wood for your fireplace or wood burning stove
- Winterize your home by insulating walls and attics, caulking and weather stripping doors and windows and installing storm windows or covering windows with plastic
- Winterize your garage, barn, shed, or any other structure that may provide shelter for your family, neighbors, livestock or equipment. Clear rain gutters; repair roof leaks and cut away tree branches that could fall on a house or another structure during a storm
- Insulate pipes with insulation or newspapers and plastic and allow faucets to drip a little during cold weather to avoid freezing
- Keep fire extinguishers on hand and make sure everyone in your house knows how to use them. House fires pose an additional risk, as more people turn to alternate heating sources without taking the necessary precautions
- Learn how to shut off water valves in case of burst pipes
- Know ahead of time what you should do to help elderly or disabled friends, neighbors or employees
- Hire a contractor to check the structural stability of the roof to sustain unusually heavy weight from the accumulation of snow or water
- Add the following to your disaster supplies kit:
  - Rock salt to melt ice on walkways, Sand to improve traction, snow shovels and other snow removal equipment

### In Your Car

- Check or have a mechanic check the following items;

- Antifreeze levels, battery and ignition systems, brakes, exhaust systems, fuel and air filters, heater and defroster, headlights and hazard warning lights, oil and thermostat
- Maintain working wiper equipment
- Install good winter tires. Make sure tires have adequate tread. All-weather radials are usually adequate for most winter conditions. However, some areas require vehicles be equipped with chains or snow tires and studs. Check your town or county for specifics
- Maintain at least a half tank of gas during winter season
- Place a winter emergency kit in each car that includes: a shovel, windshield scraper and small broom, flashlight, battery powered radio, extra batteries, water, snack food, matches, extra hats/socks/mittens, first aid kit, pocket knife, necessary medications, blankets, tow chain or rope, road salt and sand and booster cables

#### Dress for the Weather

- Wear several layers of loose fitting, light weight, and warm clothing rather than one layer of heavy clothing. The outer garments should be tightly woven and water repellent.
- Wear mittens, which are warmer than gloves
- Wear a hat
- Cover your mouth with a scarf to protect your lungs