

Winter Safety Tips

Being prepared is the key to surviving winter storms safely. The N.C. Department of Crime Control and Public Safety offers the following winter storm preparation tips:

Winterize Your Home

- Check battery-powered equipment - flashlight(s), portable radio and/or TV. Keep additional, fresh batteries for each.
- Have furnace checked. Check heating fuel supplies. Do not allow fuel to get low because, in snowy or icy weather, fuel carriers may not be able to reach you.
- Check attic and basement insulation. Wrap basement pipes and hot-water heaters with special insulating “blankets.”
- Caulk or weather-strip doors and windows.
- Stock up on sand and ice-melt chemicals.
- Have an alternate heating source - fireplace, wood stove, space heater. Equipment should be approved for indoor use. Properly ventilate room and use strict fire safety measures.
- Have fireplace cleaned by a professional before use.
- Keep space heaters at least three feet away from any combustible materials, including drapes, carpeting and furniture.
- Do not drape gloves, socks, or other clothing over a space heater to dry.
- Keep children and pets away from heating equipment.
- Fuel-filled equipment should be filled outdoors when completely cooled.
- Have a smoke detector on each level of the home. Check batteries monthly.
- Have a fire extinguisher near each heating source.
- **Assemble emergency supplies kit:**
 - Extra supplies of high energy food and food requiring no cooking or refrigeration. (Suggestion for canned foods: 10 cans per person)
 - Non-electric can opener
 - Bottled water for three days. (One gallon per person per day)
 - Extra warm clothing
 - Extra blankets or sleeping bags
 - First- aid kit, including essential medications

Winterize Your Vehicle

- Check battery. Recharge or replace if low.
- Check oil and replace antifreeze.
- Be sure heater, brakes, and windshield wipers are in good working order.
- Keep vehicle’s fuel tank at least half filled for emergency use and to avoid ice in

tank and fuel lines.

Keep emergency supplies kit in vehicle.

- Flashlight, extra batteries
- Blanket or sleeping bag
- First-aid kit
- Extra warm clothing
- Sack of sand or cat litter
- Shovel
- Windshield scraper and brush
- Tow rope
- Booster cables
- Chains

If You Are Caught In a Winter Storm:

Stay Inside. When using an alternate heat source (fireplace, wood stove, space heater, etc.), be sure to:

- use fire safeguards; and
- properly ventilate the room.

If the power goes out and you have no heat:

- Turn off electrical appliances that were on when the power went off to avoid a power surge when the electricity is restored;
- Use flashlights instead of candles to prevent fire.
- Close off unneeded rooms;
- Stuff towels or rags in cracks under doors; and
- Cover windows at night.

Eat and drink. Food provides the body with energy to produce its own heat. Keep the body replenished with fluids to prevent dehydration.

Wear layers of loose-fitting, light-weight, warm clothing. Layering clothes keeps you warmer than a single layer of heavy clothing. Remove layers to avoid overheating, perspiration, and subsequent chill.

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