



Winter Storm - Power Outage

Hazardous conditions due to snow and ice are a major concern for Hoosiers. The Indiana Department of Homeland Security issues the following information in preparation for expected severe weather.

Health Risks

- * People, pets, and livestock are susceptible to frostbite and hypothermia during winter storms.
- * Those at risk are primarily either engaged in outdoor activity (shoveling snow, digging out vehicles, or assisting stranded motorists), or are the elderly or very young.
- * Citizens' use of generators, kerosene heaters and alternative forms of heating may create other hazards such as fires and carbon monoxide poisoning.
- * Remove wet clothing. Working up a sweat shoveling your driveway or trying to dislodge a vehicle can cause hypothermia if you do not change into dry clothing.

Candle Safety

The Indiana Department of Homeland Security does NOT recommend using a candle as a heat or light source. If you do plan to use them, please follow the safety tips provided.

- * Use a flashlight, not a candle, for emergency lighting.
- * Never leave a burning candle unattended.
- * Extinguish candles before leaving a room, leaving your home or going to sleep.
- * Keep candles at least 12 inches away from anything that can burn, including decorations, paper, wreaths and bows.
- * Keep all candles, matches and lighters out of reach of children and pets.
- * Make sure lit candles are not in places where they can be accidentally knocked over.
- * Use sturdy, non-flammable candle holders that will collect dripping wax.
- * Trim wicks to 1/2 inch. Long or crooked wicks can cause uneven burning and dripping.
- * Extinguish candles when they burn down to within two inches of their holder or decorations.
- * To avoid hot wax spatter, blow out a candle by holding your finger in front of the flame and blow at it. The air will flow around your finger and extinguish the candle from both sides, preventing spatter.

Alternative Heating Tips

- * Maintain 3 feet of space between things that can burn and heating equipment. This includes draperies, blankets, clothing, bedding, etc.
- * Keep alternative heaters properly ventilated. Carbon monoxide can build up to dangerous levels in any small, enclosed space.
- * Use the proper grade of fuel for your liquid-fueled space heater, and never use gasoline in any heater not approved for gasoline use. Refuel only in a well-ventilated area and when the equipment is cool.
- * Use only dry, seasoned wood in a fireplace or wood stove to avoid the build-up of creosote, an oily deposit that easily catches fire and accounts for most chimney fires and the largest share of home heating fires. Use only paper or kindling wood, not a flammable liquid, to start the fire. Do not use artificial logs in wood stoves.
- * Make sure your fireplace has a sturdy screen to prevent sparks from flying into the room. Allow fireplace and woodstove ashes to cool before disposing in a metal container, which is kept a safe distance from your home.
- * Turn off space heaters whenever the room they are in is unoccupied or under circumstances when manufacturer's instructions say they should be turned off.
- * Do not use your oven to heat your home.
- * Make sure fuel-burning equipment is vented to the outside, that the venting is kept clear and unobstructed, and that the exit point is properly sealed around the vent.

For more information, visit the IDHS website at: www.in.gov/dhs
or via email at pio@dhs.in.gov or (317) 234-6713.

Winter Storm - Be Prepared



The Indiana Department of Homeland Security wants you to be prepared for any disaster that might take place. To stay safe, prepare a disaster supplies kit and a family communications plan; prepare your home against the cold; learn what winter storm watches and warnings mean; and if stranded in your car away from home, know what steps to take.

Assemble a Basic Emergency Supply Kit with:

- * Non-perishable food;
- * Water-enough for three days;
- * A battery-powered or hand-cranked radio;
- * Flashlights and batteries;
- * Rock salt to melt ice on walkways;
- * Sand to improve traction;
- * Snow shovels and other snow removal equipment;
- * Extra blankets, gloves and warm clothing.

Make a family plan to include:

- * How to contact one another if not together when disaster strikes;
- * How and where to reassemble.

Prepare your home by:

- * Insulating with weather stripping around doors and windowsills;
- * Insulating pipes with plastic or newspapers and allow water from faucets to drip a little to avoid freezing;
- * Learning how to shut off water valves if a pipe bursts;
- * Keeping fire extinguishers on hand and knowing how to use them;
- * Hiring an expert to check the structural stability of the roof to sustain the weight of extremely heavy snow accumulation.

Become familiar with winter weather terms:

- * Winter Storm Advisory means cold, ice and snow are expected;
- * Winter Storm Watch means severe weather such as heavy snow or ice is possible in the next day or two, so finalize preparations and listen to a weather radio or forecasts;
- * Winter Storm Warning means severe winter conditions have begun or will begin soon, so stay inside.

If traveling by car:

- * Carry emergency materials (flashlight, batteries, extra gloves, blanket, etc.);
- * Keep the gas tank full;
- * Let someone know your destination, route, and when you expect to arrive;
- * If you do get stuck, stay with your car, keep the overhead light on when the engine is running (and windows cracked) so you can be seen, and tie a brightly colored cloth (preferably red) to the antenna for rescuers to see.

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