



Winter Storm

Winter storm warnings are reported by your local weatherman. They can be predicted with a reasonable amount of accuracy. Winter storms can bring a lot of snow, sleet, freezing rain, sub-zero temperatures, lots of ice, and even blizzards.



Things to Know:

Winter Storm Watch: Heavy snow and ice are very possible over the next couple of days.

Winter Storm Warning: Severe winter weather has come to the area—Heavy snow and/or ice will begin soon

Blizzard: Strong winds over 35mph along with snow that reduces the visibility.

Sleet: Rain that falls and turns into ice before it hits the ground

Freezing Rain: Rain that falls and turns to ice once it hits the surface.

Before a Winter Storm:

- Keep extra blankets, warm clothes, and a lighter or matches around the house. Know where they are located in case you have to find them in a power outage.
- Keep extra wood around or know how to properly work your gas fireplace.
- If you rent, make sure you are familiar with the heating system and it is safe to use.
- Stock up on extra food and water before the storm because the power may go out, or you might be snowed in for a few days.
- Fuel your car before the storm.
- Put extra blankets, clothes, ice scraper, extra food, extra water, and a shovel in your car.

During a Winter Storm:

- Don't attempt to go out and get something. Once a winter storm starts conditions worsen quickly.
- Keep updated on situation via internet, TV, or radio.
- Make sure heat source is safe. Many fires are started each year via unsafe heating.
- Keep items 3 feet away from heaters.
- If you are stranded in your car, do **NOT** attempt to get out and go find help unless its within 100 yards.
- Run the car 10 minutes each hour to keep warm, but make sure the tailpipe is not blocked or you may suffer from carbon monoxide poisoning.
- Display a trouble sign, usually a bright piece of clothing will do.
- Use flood mats for extra insulation.
- Keep circulation of blood within your body by moving around.
- If you are with someone, share body heat.



For more information on winter storm preparedness, visit the IDHS website at: www.in.gov/dhs.