

# Surviving Winter Weather

## *Why are we concerned about being prepared for winter weather?*

Frigid weather, snow and ice storms can pose health and safety hazards at home and on the road. You will be ready for winter emergencies if you prepare now.

## *How should you prepare before a storm?*

**Home:** Keep cold air out by installing storm windows and doors or covering insides with plastic. Weather-strip where you can. Have your furnace and chimney inspected. Check smoke alarms.

**Car:** Check your radiator and add antifreeze if needed. Replace worn tires and check air pressure. Keep gas tank at least half full. Keep an extra flashlight, blanket, shovel, sand/kitty litter, emergency flares, snacks, and water in your car.

**Food:** Store enough ready-to-eat food and water for 3 days. Plan for 1/2 gallon drinking water per person per day and 1/2 gallon water for sanitation and/or cooking. Set aside a can opener, baby food/formula, pet food as needed, etc.

**Supplies:** Stock up on needed prescription drugs and first aid/medical, personal, and pet supplies. Get a battery-powered radio and flashlights with spare batteries. Organize outdoor gear like shovels, rock salt/sand/kitty litter to melt snow and ice.

## *What should you do during and after a storm?*

**Indoors:** Use a fireplace and other heaters only if vented to outdoors. Never use a charcoal/gas grill or electric generator indoors. Let water drip from faucets to prevent pipes from freezing .

**Outdoors:** Dress warmly, stay dry, and avoid ice. Go slowly if doing heavy chores. If stranded in a storm, it is safer to stay in your car.

*For more information see:* <http://www.bt.cdc.gov/disasters/winter>



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