

Winter is Here!

Be Prepared?

Winter has a lot of dangerous weather, but if you have a plan you will stay safe.

Winter Thunderstorms:

If it roars, go Indoors! Thunderstorms can cause a lot of damage and power outages. Lightning should not be taken lightly. Being indoors helps keep you safe but don't shower or bathe during a lightning storm or handle items that can attract electricity such as electronic devices and appliances. Unplug appliances that may be destroyed by an electrical surge. Do not use landline phones unless there is an emergency. Remember that electricity can travel through plumbing and phone lines. **BE SAFE, NOT SORRY!**

Power Outages:

Most power outages are resolved within a 24 hours so don't panic, prepare. If you or someone require medical devices needing electricity, you may need to go to a shelter or a hospital. Planning ahead is essential when medical needs must be met, so think about what to do before an outage.

Keep freezers and refrigerators closed to preserve the temperature. Freezers usually keep for 48 hours, but the refrigerator part may not be effective after four hours. Check for food spoilage after the outage is over. Remember, when in doubt; throw it out!

Keep generators outdoors and 20 feet from windows to avoid carbon monoxide poisoning.

Do not use gas stoves to heat your home.

Keep flashlights where they can be easily found in the dark.

Layer clothes to stay warm. Check on elderly people and children who are at higher risk for hypothermia and frostbite.

Know where you can shelter in an emergency.

Expect spikes and surges when the electric returns, protect expensive electronics by unplugging them.

Winter Snow Storms

Most major snow storms last about three days. Most people store enough supplies to last for three days normally so driving in a snow storm for supplies is not necessary. Avoid driving during a snow event if at all possible; you will be much safer.

Keep communications available by having a battery operated radio.

Flashlights are essential for power outages.

Remember your pets and see that they are safe,

Let water drip to prevent water freezing in the pipes.

Stay indoors and dress warmly.

Make plans on how to best remove the snow which may require that you hire help.

Power outages often happen so follow those suggestions during a snow storm too.

Take special care of young and elderly people if you have lost heat for your house. Hypothermia and Frostbite can cause loss of life.

For more suggestions on how to deal with winter weather, check FEMA sites!

BE SAFE and PREPARED! We care.