

“Safety comes in cans, I can... You can... together WE can!”

Are you prepared for Winter Weather?

BEFORE SEVERE WEATHER ARRIVES, store drinking water, first aid kit, canned/no-cook food, non-electric can opener, radio, flashlight and extra batteries where you can get them easily, even in the dark. Keep cars and other vehicles fueled and in good repair, with a winter emergency kit in each.



DURING A WINTER STORM, conserve fuel, if necessary, by keeping your house cooler than normal. Temporarily shut off heat to less-used rooms. If using kerosene heaters, maintain ventilation to avoid build-up of toxic fumes. Keep heaters at least three feet from flammable objects. Refuel kerosene heaters outside. Avoid travel if possible. If you must travel, do so during daylight. Don't travel alone. Stay on main roads and keep others informed of your schedule.

IF A BLIZZARD TRAPS YOU IN YOUR CAR, pull off the road, set hazard lights to flashing, and hang a distress flag from the radio antenna or window.

Remain in your vehicle; rescuers are most likely to find you there. Conserve fuel, but run the engine and heater about ten minutes each hour to keep warm. Beware of carbon monoxide poisoning. Keep the exhaust pipe clear of snow and open a downwind window slightly for ventilation. Exercise to maintain body heat but don't overexert. Huddle with other passengers and use your coat for a blanket. In extreme cold, use road maps, seat covers, floor mats, newspapers or extra clothing for covering—anything to provide additional insulation and warmth. Turn on the inside dome light so rescue teams can see you at night, but be careful not to run the battery down. In remote areas, spread a large cloth over the snow to attract the attention of rescue planes. Do not set out on foot unless you see a building close by where you know you can take shelter. Once the blizzard is over, you may need to leave the car and proceed on foot. Follow the road if possible. If you need to walk across open country, use distant points as landmarks to help maintain your sense of direction.



AFTER THE STORM, report downed power lines and broken gas lines immediately. After blizzards, heavy snows or extreme cold, check to see that no physical damage has occurred and that water pipes are functioning. If there are no other problems, wait for streets and roads to be opened before you attempt to drive anywhere. Check on neighbors, especially any who might need help. Beware of overexertion and exhaustion. Shoveling snow in extreme cold causes many heart attacks. Set your priorities and pace yourself after any disaster that leaves you with a mess to clean up. The natural tendency is to do too much too soon.

VEHICLE EMERGENCY KITS:

Assemble winter survival kits for all of your vehicles. Keep them in the vehicles all winter so they'll be easy to get to if you need them. The kit should include:

- ◆ Three-pound coffee can, candle stubs and matches, which can be used to melt snow for additional drinking water
- ◆ Metal cup
- ◆ Red bandanna and a plastic whistle to alert rescuers to your location
- ◆ First aid kit, including any essential medications
- ◆ Plastic flashlight with spare batteries (reverse the batteries to avoid accidental switching and burnout, and replace batteries yearly)
- ◆ Two large plastic garbage bags, safety pins (bags are for insulation for feet, safety pins keep the bags together)
- ◆ Snack foods for energy, such as candy bars
- ◆ Some other items that you could carry include extra gloves, mittens, boots, a snowmobile suit, a blanket and/or sleeping bag, jumper cables, a basic toolbox, a shovel, a bag of sand or other grit for traction, tow cable or chain, road flares and reflectors.

Call ahead to your destination and let people know when you intend to leave, what travel route you will take, and your expected time of arrival.

Consider carrying a cell phone for use during emergencies. Find a safe place to pull off the road when you need to make a call.

