

Winter Storm Preparedness

WINTER WEATHER ADVISORY:

This product is issued by the National Weather Service when a low pressure system produces a combination of winter weather (snow, freezing rain, sleet, etc.) that present a hazard, but does not meet warning criteria.

WINTER STORM WATCH:

This product is issued by the National Weather Service when there is a potential for heavy snow or significant ice accumulations, usually at least 24 to 36 hours in advance. The criteria for this watch can vary from place to place.

WINTER STORM WARNING:

This product is issued by the National Weather Service when a winter storm is producing or is forecast to produce heavy snow or significant ice accumulations. The criteria for this warning can vary from place to place.

Protective Actions

- **Listen to your radio, television, or NOAA Weather Radio** for weather reports and emergency information.
- **Eat regularly and drink ample fluids**, but avoid caffeine and alcohol.
- **Conserve fuel, if necessary**, by keeping your residence cooler than normal. Temporarily close off heat to some rooms.
- **If the pipes freeze**, remove any insulation or layers of newspapers and wrap pipes in rags. Completely open all faucets and pour hot water over the pipes, starting where they were most exposed to the cold (or where the cold was most likely to penetrate).
- **Maintain ventilation when using kerosene heaters** to avoid build-up of toxic fumes. Refuel kerosene heaters outside and keep them at least three feet from flammable objects.
- **Make every attempt to remain self sufficient for 72 hours.** Due to the potential of an overwhelming amount of calls to emergency personnel during a severe weather event, each household should maintain a sufficient amount of non-perishable food items, water, blankets, and other essential items that could keep them sufficient for up to 3 days.