

WINTER WEATHER PREPAREDNESS

A RESOURCE FOR PERSONAL, HOME, AND COMMUTING PREPAREDNESS



1

Prepare your home for cold weather.

2

Build an emergency supply kit for home and car.

3

Do not drive unnecessarily.

4

Sign up for AlertSeattle at alert.seattle.gov



PREPARING FOR WINTER STORMS

- Be aware of winter storm forecasts. Listen to local radio stations or tune in to local news channels.
- Prepare your home for cold weather.
 - Install storm windows.
 - Insulate outside walls, attics, and crawl spaces.
 - Wrap pipes, especially those near cold outer walls or in attics or crawl spaces.
 - Repair leaks in the roof, around the doors and in the windows.
- Remember to keep objects at least three feet away from all heaters. If you have a kerosene heater, only fill it outside.
- Make sure your fireplace functions properly.
- Have rock salt and sand on hand for traction on ice.

DURING A WINTER STORM

- Wear several layers of loose fitting, light weight, warm clothing (rather than one layer of heavy clothing). Wear mittens rather than gloves. Wear a warm, woolen cap.
- Heat only the areas of your home you are using. Close doors and curtains or cover windows and doors with blankets.
- Use alternative heat methods safely. Never use a gas or charcoal grill, hi-bachi, or portable propane heater to cook indoors or heat your home.
- Watch for signs of frostbite and hypothermia. Be sure to eat regularly—food provides calories that maintain body heat.
- If you become trapped outside, get out of the wind and stay dry. Build a lean-to or snow cave if nothing else is available. Do not eat snow.

DRIVING AND COMMUTING

- Make sure someone knows where you are going. Stay on the main roads.
- If you are commuting using public transportation, plan for the possibility of not being able to get home. Carry some mobile emergency supplies with you in the winter months.
- Keep an emergency kit in your vehicle:
 - Three day supply of water and non-perishable food that can be eaten without being cooked.
 - A blanket or sleeping bag for each passenger
 - A flashlight & batteries
 - Cell phone & charger
 - Shovel
 - A sack of sand or kitty litter
 - Booster cables
 - Flare
 - Coffee can with lid and toilet paper



Seattle
Office of Emergency
Management