

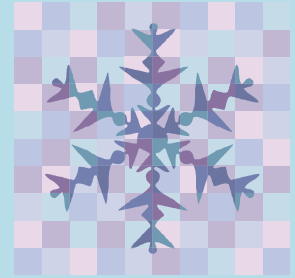
Welcome to Disasterville

December 2009

Winter Weather Checklist

Stock up on emergency supplies for communication, food, safety, heating, and car in case a storm hits. Make sure you have at least one of the following in case there is a power failure:

- Battery-powered radio (for listening to local emergency instructions). Have extra batteries.
- National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) weather radio receiver (for listening to National Weather Service broadcasts). See www.nws.noaa.gov/nwr for more information.



Find out how your community warns the public about severe weather: siren, radio, tv. Listen to emergency broadcasts.

Know what winter storm warning terms mean:

- Winter weather advisory: expect winter weather conditions to cause inconvenience and hazards.
- Frost/freeze warning: expect below-freezing temperatures.
- Winter storm watch: be alert; a storm is likely.
- Winter storm warning: take action; the storm is in or entering the area.
- Blizzard warning: seek refuge immediately! Snow and strong winds, near-zero visibility, deep snow drifts, and life-threatening wind chill.

Have at least one of the following heat sources in case the power goes out: Fireplace with plenty of dry firewood or gas log fireplace or a portable space heater.

Never place a space heater on top of furniture or near water. Use electric space heaters with automatic shut-off switches and nonglowing elements. Keep heat sources at least 3 feet away from furniture and drapes. Never leave children unattended near a space heater.

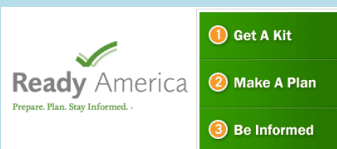
Have the following safety equipment:

- Chemical fire extinguisher
- Smoke alarm in working order (Check once a month and change batteries once a year.)
- Carbon monoxide detector

Never use an electric generator indoors, inside the garage, or near the air intake of your home because of the risk of carbon monoxide poisoning:

- Do not use the generator or appliances if they are wet.
- Do not store gasoline indoors where the fumes could ignite.
- Use individual heavy-duty, outdoor-rated cords to plug in other appliances.

This information is from: <http://www.bt.cdc.gov/disasters/winter/beforestorm/supplylists.asp>



KCER is a member of the National Preparedness Month Coalition.

For more information, visit www.kcercoalition.com, call 813-865-3267 or email sburris@nw7.esrd.net.