

Public Information Statement  
National Weather Service Albany NY  
300 PM EDT Mon Oct 31 2016

...WINTER WEATHER SAFETY TIPS...

...October 30 To November 5 is Winter Weather Awareness Week in New York and New England...

Individual preparation is the key to mitigating the effects of severe winter weather. The following is a collection of winter weather safety information.

...When driving...

- ...clear your vehicle of all ice and snow.
- ...keep extra distance between you and other vehicles.
- ...be extra alert. Roadside snow piles can hide children.
- ...drive according to the weather and road conditions
- ...slow down on slick roads.

...If your children walk to school...

- ...encourage them to carry a backpack for books and papers.
- ...if possible, select outer garments with reflective markings.
- ...listen to the radio or television for school cancellations or delays.

...Proper heat and humidity...

- ...if possible, have emergency heating equipment available to keep at least one room warm, in case you run out of fuel or power is lost.
- ...to sleep, several lightweight blankets are warmer than one heavy one.
- ...to stay warm, dress in layers and wear a hat and gloves.
- ...if you need more information on saving energy in your home or believe your heat has been turned off without proper notification, call the New York Public Service Commission toll free hotline at 1-800-342-3355, or the New York Home Energy Assistance Program at 1-800-342-3009.

...Treatment of hypothermia...

- ...a victim must be rewarmed and should be seen by a doctor in a hospital.
- ...while waiting for emergency help to arrive, prevent further heat loss by wrapping the victim in a warm blanket and applying either heating pads or hot water bottles to the abdomen.
- ...if the victim is alert, give small quantities of warm food and drink. Do not give alcohol.

...More winter preparedness driving tips...

- ...allow yourself extra time to travel and slow down.
- ...avoid skidding on slick roads by gently applying your brakes.
- ...clear your windshield and windows before starting out. Do not travel blind waiting for the defroster to start to work.
- ...turn on your headlights while driving in rain or snow.

...Winter preparedness at home...

- ...if you use an electric heater during cold weather, do not overload the circuit and only use extension cords which have the necessary rating to carry the electrical load.
- ...if your pipes freeze, thaw them with hot water or hot air from a hair dryer. Do not use a torch.
- ...if your furnace has an electric turn on, prepare an alternative heat source.
- ...have an adequate supply of wood for fireplaces or wood stoves, or kerosene for space heaters.

NOAA weather radio offers one way to receive immediate relay of any winter weather warnings. Many local television and radio stations also broadcast weather alerts. Computers and wireless devices can also receive warnings. Smartphone app stores have wireless applications that will alert you of threatening weather by relaying National Weather Service warnings.

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