

...Winter Weather Preparedness Week Across New England And New York...  
...Today's Topic, Review Of Preparedness Activities...

Today concludes Winter Weather Preparedness Week across New England and New York. Winter Weather Preparedness Week is a joint effort between National Weather Service offices, and local and state governments in New England and New York to educate the public of impending winter hazards, and what can be done to prepare for the upcoming winter season.

If you have not already done so, now is the time to get yourself and your property prepared for the winter season.

The severe ice storm of January 1998 caused long lasting devastation. Many were unprepared and several died in the wake of the storm. Many lessons were learned individually and as a community. One such lesson that could be taken away was the importance of heeding the advice of your National Weather Service and local officials. Take their advice seriously and act on it before the dangers materialize.

Preparation and action are the keys to successfully surviving Mother Nature's fury. Here are some preparations and actions that you should take to survive and possibly enjoy this upcoming winter season.

Make sure your heating system has been inspected and is operating safely and efficiently. Have your chimney swept to remove any soot buildup.

Check your supply of heating fuel. If you heat your home by wood stove, be sure you have a sufficient supply of wood to last through the winter.

If you use a generator, be sure you provide adequate ventilation to prevent deadly carbon monoxide poisoning. Also, with any heating system, make sure you have a battery powered operating carbon monoxide detector.

Check your food supply and stock an extra supply of nonperishable foods. your supplies should include food that requires no cooking or refrigeration in case you lose electricity. Also, have plenty of bottled water on hand.

In the event you lose electricity, have plenty of warm blankets available. Be sure your battery operated radios and flashlights are in good working order and that you have a fresh supply of batteries.

Get your vehicle winterized before the cold weather arrives. Be sure the battery is fully charged, and your lights and brakes are in good working order. Check your tires and wiper blades and be sure to have a fresh supply of antifreeze.

Keep a winter storm kit in the trunk of your car. Some supplies you may want to include are blankets, nonperishable foods like nuts, protein, health or candy bars, flares, a shovel, a bag of sand, tire chains, a flashlight, a windshield scraper, and booster cables.

The National Weather Service will keep you up-to-date when winter weather threatens. Listen to NOAA Weather Radio All Hazards frequently. Practice what you learned this week, by taking the proper precautions to protect yourself.

For more information, check our website at [weather.gov](http://weather.gov), then click on Vermont.