

Public Information Statement
National Weather Service Albany NY
500 AM EST Sat Nov 7 2020

...Winter Weather Awareness Week Concludes Today...

Winter in New York can bring some of nature's most severe conditions. This week we reviewed the meteorology and hazards associated with heavy snowfall, lake effect snow, nor'easters, blizzards, ice storms, winter flooding and wind chill.

Preparation is the key to keep safe this winter. You should be prepared before a winter storm starts. By preparing now, you can be ready when severe winter weather threatens.

Keep informed. Pay attention to the latest forecasts. Winter storm outlooks are issued to give you a heads up for the possibility of severe winter conditions in the next 3 to 7 days. Winter storm watches are issued when severe weather conditions are possible in the next day or two, while winter storm warnings are issued when severe weather conditions have begun or will begin within the next 24 hours.

We issue frequent updates for winter weather that serve to give you the most up to the minute and detailed weather information available. These updates include statements that follow up the issuance of watches, warnings and advisories.

If possible, avoid travel during winter storms. If driving, slow down on snow and ice covered roads. Be alert for rapidly changing conditions. About 70 percent of fatalities due to ice and snow occur from vehicle accidents and about 25 percent occur to people caught out in the storm.

Fully check and winterize your car or truck. Check your tires, brakes, windshield wipers, windshield fluid, battery, and antifreeze. Put together a winter survival kit for your car which includes a first aid kit, cell phone charger, blanket or sleeping bag, flashlight with fresh batteries, shovel, a sack of sand or cat litter, booster cables, tow rope, ice scraper, brush, road maps, high energy non-perishable food and tissues or baby wipes.

At home you should be prepared for the possibility you may lose power and heat. Chimneys should be cleaned now. Have flashlights, battery powered radio, extra batteries, water, high energy foods that require no cooking or refrigeration, extra medicine, baby items, and first aid supplies on hand.

Emergency heat sources such as fireplaces, wood stoves and space heaters need to be used properly to prevent fire, and ventilated properly to prevent carbon monoxide poisoning. Always make sure your smoke alarms, fire extinguishers and carbon monoxide detectors are in working order.

Do not forget about your pets. Make sure they have plenty of food, water and shelter. Most animal deaths during winter storms occur from dehydration.

For additional winter weather safety and preparedness information, please see:
<https://www.weather.gov/safety/winter>

When you need timely information, you can get it on NOAA Weather Radio. Weather radios are inexpensive and alert you of the latest hazards. Many local television and radio stations also broadcast weather alerts.

Your Albany National Weather Service forecast information is also available online and on social media. You can reach us at weather.gov/albany, like us on Facebook, and tweet along on Twitter @nwsalbany.

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