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Public Information Statement
National Weather Service Indianapolis IN
630 AM EST Fri Nov 13 2020

This week is Winter Weather Preparedness Week in Indiana. The best way for you to stay safe and warm outdoors is for you to be prepared.

Monitor weather forecasts. The National Weather Service issues Outlooks on storm potential days before it arrives. National Weather Service Winter Weather Watches give up to two days notice of impending storms. National Weather Service Winter Weather Warnings or Advisories give up to 24 hours notice of significant weather soon to impact your area.

Dress warmly, wearing several layers of clothes which is warmer than a single thick layer. Wear gloves, a hat and scarf or turtleneck to minimize exposed skin.

Try to stay dry. Footwear and clothing that can keep you dry can prevent hypothermia. Clothing that insulates well or removes body perspiration also reduces your chance of developing frostbite or hypothermia.

If you are caught outside away from shelter, your main concerns are to stay warm and dry. Prepare a lean-to or snow cave to help protect you from precipitation and wind. Build a fire for heat and to attract attention.

For your vehicle, have it winterized. Good tires improve steering ability and shorten braking distance on slippery roads. If your vehicle has anti-lock brakes, test them so you know how they work in emergency stops. Frequently check window washer fluid levels throughout the winter so you don't run out when you need it most.

Preventative maintenance for vehicles can reduce the chances of encountering car trouble. Vehicle maintenance should include:

Checking tire pressure and tread depth;

Checking the battery, ensuring it is not too old and that the battery terminal connections are tight and free of corrosion;

Checking the antifreeze, ensuring a proper fluid level and a 50/50 antifreeze-water mix best for winter's frigid temperatures;

Checking to ensure the heater and defroster are working well;

Checking windshield wipers, using new wiper blades each year and ensuring adequate wiper fluid levels prior to long trips;

Keeping an emergency kit in the vehicle that includes at a minimum a flashlight, jumper cables, tool kit, food/water, blankets/clothes;

The best way to stay safe is to have a plan, to know your limits, and to use common sense. Be weather-ready.

On Saturday we will review the items covered this week.

Visit getprepared.in.gov for more information about winter safety.

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