

...WINTER WEATHER PREPAREDNESS WEEK IN NORTH CAROLINA DECEMBER 5-11, 2021...

This week has been declared winter weather preparedness week in North Carolina. All week long the National Weather Service will be issuing Informative messages to help you prepare for winter weather. Today we will focus on winter weather preparedness and things to keep in mind when snow and ice are in the forecast.

Is your home prepared for winter? We think of our homes as the place we want to be when the weather turns cold and blustery. However, if certain precautions are not taken before a winter storm strikes, life at home can be just as miserable as the weather outside.

Severe winter storms produce conditions which can isolate you in your home for several days. Prolonged loss of power and telephone services can severely limit your ability to heat your home and call for help. In severe winter storms, obtaining supplies, food and other necessities can be hampered or prevented by poor road conditions. The following are some helpful hints to make your home a safe haven during winter weather.

Stock an emergency supply of food and water prior to the onset of a winter storm. Include food items which require no cooking such as canned meats, peanut butter and other non-perishables. Also do not forget to have necessary medicines and baby items on hand. A three to five day supply of food and medicine is generally sufficient. Also make sure you have a manual can opener.

Keep an adequate supply of heating fuel (firewood, kerosene, etc.) at your home. Use your fuel properly and sparingly as supplies may be in short order during winter storms. Use heaters and fuels properly and safely in order to avoid deadly fires and carbon monoxide.

Keep on hand a flash light, battery powered radio, extra batteries, and a first aid kit.

Prevent water pipes from freezing by wrapping them with insulation or newspaper covered with plastic. In really cold weather, let your faucets drip slightly to help avoid freezing. If your pipes do freeze, remove the insulation and wrap the pipes in rags. Open

every faucet in the house and pour hot water over the rag wrapped pipes. Also, know how to shut off your home's water supply should water lines break.

Keep generators well away from the home. Never run a generator in your garage or any other enclosed area. Carbon monoxide from the exhaust of the generator can be a silent killer. Also make sure your generator is properly wired to your home. Never heat your home using a charcoal grill, gas grill or camp stove. Grills and camp stoves create deadly carbon monoxide fumes that will build up when used in your home. Always use grills outside.

Due to the use of alternative heating sources, house fires can be a real danger during winter storms, so make sure that every family member knows how to evacuate the home in the event of a fire. Make sure you and your family designate an outdoor meeting place if you do have to leave your home quickly because of a fire. Also make sure all smoke detectors are working properly and have fresh batteries.

Being prepared for winter weather means having the necessary information to make the right decisions. The National Weather Service recommends that you regularly check its web site or tune into NOAA Weather Radio, local television and local radio in order to keep informed of weather conditions and forecasts this winter.

Additional winter weather preparedness resources:

NWS Newport/Morehead City, NC Winter Page:

<https://www.weather.gov/mhx/wwaw>

NWS winter safety page:

https://www.weather.gov/wrn/winter_safety

North Carolina Department of Public Safety preparedness page:

<http://readync.org>

FEMA's Winter preparedness page:

<https://www.ready.gov/winter-weather>