

Winter Safety Tips

DURING A WINTER STORM

At home:

- To save heat, close off unneeded rooms, cover windows at night and stuff towels or rags in cracks under doors.
- Maintain adequate food and water intake. Food provides the body with energy for producing its own heat.

If travel is necessary:

- Use caution when driving in winter conditions. **The highest rate of traffic crashes due to winter weather is in the month of November when the snow first starts to fall over Michigan.**
- Inform someone of your destination and travel time. Bring a cell phone in case you must call for help.

If traveling and the power goes out:

- Use extreme caution when driving. If traffic signals are out, treat each signal as a stop sign – come to a complete stop at every intersection and look for oncoming traffic before proceeding.
- Do not call 9-1-1 to ask about the power outage. Listen to news radio stations for updates and contact your electrical company.

If stranded in a vehicle:

- Attach a bright cloth to your antenna to attract attention and then remain in the vehicle.
- Run the motor about 10 minutes each hour for heat. However, open the window slightly for fresh air **and make sure the exhaust pipe is not blocked.**
- Attract attention by turning on the dome light and emergency flashers when running the engine.
- To keep blood circulating and to stay warm, exercise by moving arms, legs, fingers and toes.

If stranded outside:

- Try to stay dry and cover all exposed parts of the body.
- Prepare a windbreak or snow cave for protection from the wind. Build a fire for heat and to attract attention.
- Do not eat snow because it will lower your body temperature. Melt it first.

ANYTIME

- Listen to an All-Hazards NOAA Weather Radio or local radio, television and cable stations for the latest updates on hazardous winter weather.
- To ensure uninterrupted weather information, make sure the NOAA Weather Radio or other radio has a battery-operated backup and fresh batteries. A battery-operated TV is also another option.
- For All-Hazards NOAA Weather Radio information, including a station near you, visit the NOAA Weather Radio web site at <http://www.nws.noaa.gov/nwr> or contact your National Weather Service office.



Know the difference between a winter storm WATCH (conditions make the storm possible) and winter storm WARNING (the storm is headed for your area).

A blizzard WARNING means strong winds, blinding wind-driven snow, and dangerous wind chill. Avoid driving and seek shelter.

For more information on winter storms, visit <http://www.nws.noaa.gov/om/brochures/winterstorm.pdf>