



EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT MONTHLY

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Winter Weather Readiness

Terms to Know

- **Winter Storm Watch** - A winter storm is possible in your area.
- **Winter Storm Warning** - A winter storm is occurring or will soon occur in your area.
- **Blizzard Warning** - Sustained winds or frequent gusts to 35 mph or greater with large amounts of falling/blowing snow (reducing visibility to less than a quarter mile) for a period of three hours or longer.
- **Freezing Rain** - Rain that freezes when it hits the ground, creating a coating of ice on bridges, roads, and walkways.
- **Sleet** - rain which turns to ice pellets before reaching the ground. This causes moisture on roads and dangerous driving conditions.

While the danger from winter weather varies across the country, nearly all Americans, regardless of where they live, are likely to face some type of severe winter weather at some point in their lives. Winter storms can range from a moderate snow over a few hours to a blizzard with blinding, wind-driven snow that lasts for several days. Many winter storms are accompanied by dangerously low temperatures and sometimes by strong winds, icing, sleet and freezing rain.

One of the primary concerns is the winter weather's ability to knock out heat, power and communications services to your home, sometimes for days at a time. Heavy snowfall and extreme cold can immobilize an entire region.

Before winter approaches, add the following supplies to your emergency kit: Rock salt or more environmentally safe products to melt ice on walkways. Sand to improve traction. Snow shovels and other snow removal equipment. Sufficient heating fuel. You may become isolated in your home and regular fuel sources may be cut off. Adequate clothing and blankets to keep you warm. Don't forget to winterize your car!

During the storm: Stay indoors during the storm. Walk carefully on snowy, icy, walkways. Avoid overexertion when shoveling snow. Overexertion can bring on a heart attack—a major cause of death in the winter. Use caution, take breaks, push the snow instead of lifting it when possible, and lift lighter loads. Keep dry. Change wet clothing frequently to prevent a loss of body heat. Wet clothing loses all of its insulating value and transmits heat rapidly.

When traveling: Drive only if it is absolutely necessary. If you must drive travel in the day; don't travel alone; keep others informed of your schedule; stay on main roads and avoid back road shortcuts.

After the storm: Restock your emergency supplies to be ready in case another storm hits. Assess how well your supplies and family plan worked. What could you have done better? Take a few minutes to improve your family plan and supplies before the next winter storm hits. Talk to your neighbors and colleagues about their experiences and share tips with each other.

For more information concerning winter weather visit the Inclement Weather guide by clicking the link on the [JB MDL home page](#) or for what to do in a winter storm and how to be prepared available online at: <http://www.nws.noaa.gov/om/brochures/>

Winter weather vehicle kit:

- A radio or a cell phone with fresh or charged batteries.
- Extra winter blankets, gloves, hats, and clothes.
- A snow shovel and rock salt /kitty litter for traction.
- Store a flashlight with extra batteries, maps and/or GPS.
- A first aid kit with a brightly colored flag.
- Bottled water and non perishable food.

Important Information:

Tune to 1650 AM for latest weather information in the Joint Base area.

Call 754-BASE (McGuire/Dix)
or
732-323-SNOW (Lakehurst) for base impacts due to weather.

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