

JANUARY 2009



**WHAT THE PUBLIC NEEDS TO KNOW BEFORE WINTER STORMS AND EXTREME COLD**

**EMERGENCY  
MESSAGES ARE  
BROADCAST ON:**

WFMD 930 AM

WFRE 99.9 FM

WAFY KEY 103.1FM

FCG-TV CHANNEL 19

FCPS-TV CHANNEL 18

CITY OF FREDERICK  
CHANNEL 99

NBC 25 WHAG TV

**ADDITIONAL  
INFORMATION:**

- Frederick County Government preparedness website at [www.co.frederick.md.us/emergency](http://www.co.frederick.md.us/emergency)
- Call the Frederick County Department of Emergency Preparedness at 301-600-1746
- E-mail at [Emergency-Management@fredco-md.net](mailto:Emergency-Management@fredco-md.net)

Each winter, injuries occur in Frederick County due to exposure to the cold, vehicle accidents, as well as the dangerous use of home heaters. Winter storms may last a few days and be accompanied by high winds, freezing rain or sleet, heavy snowfall and cold temperatures. In preparation for winter inclement weather conditions, the Department of Emergency Preparedness reminds citizens and businesses to follow the preparation tips issued by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

**Add the following supplies to your emergency preparedness kit:**

- **Rock salt** to melt ice on walkways.
- **Sand** to improve traction.
- **Snow shovels** and other snow removal equipment.

**Prepare your home and family:**

- **Prepare for possible isolation in your home** by having sufficient heating fuel; regular fuel sources may be cut off. For example, store a good supply of dry, seasoned wood for your fireplace or wood-burning stove.

- **Winterize your home** to extend the life of your fuel supply by insulating walls and attics, caulking and weatherstripping doors and windows, and installing storm windows or covering windows with plastic.

- **Winterize your house, barn, shed or any other structure that may provide shelter** for your family, neighbors, livestock or equipment. Clear rain gutters; repair roof leaks and cut away tree branches that could fall on a house or other structure during a storm.

- **Insulate pipes** with insulation or newspapers and plastic and allow faucets to drip a little during cold weather (below 32 degrees F) to avoid freezing.

- **Keep fire extinguishers on hand**, and make sure everyone in your house knows how to use them. House fires pose an additional risk, as more people turn to alternate heating sources without taking the necessary safety precautions.

- **Learn how to shut off water valves** (in case a pipe bursts).

- **Develop a support system.** Know ahead of time what you should do to help elderly or disabled friends, neighbors or employees.

- **Hire a contractor to check the structural capability of the roof** to sustain unusually heavy weight from the accumulation of snow - or water, if drains on flat roofs do not work.

**Dress for the weather:**

People with disabilities may want to take extra care during the cold weather season. Some disabling conditions may limit the ability to maintain body heat.

- **Wear several layers** of loose fitting, lightweight, warm clothing rather than one layer of heavy clothing. The outer garments should be tightly woven and water repellent.
- **Wear mittens**, which are warmer than gloves.
- **Wear a hat.**
- **Cover your mouth** with a scarf to protect your lungs.

