



Cold Weather Safety Guidance

When outside, frostbite and hypothermia are possible so protecting yourself is a priority.

1. Wear several layers of loose-fitting, lightweight, warm clothing.
2. Wear a winter hat. Try to stay dry and out of the wind.
3. Cover your mouth to protect your lungs from extreme cold.
4. Mittens that are snug at the wrist are better than gloves.

Ice Safety

Please visit this link for more information:

<https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/safety/ice/thickness.html>

To keep interior pipes from freezing on an outside wall:

1. Let hot- and cold-water trickle or drip at night from a faucet.
2. Open cabinet doors to allow more heat to get to uninsulated pipes under sinks or near an outer wall.
3. Make sure heat is left on and set no lower than 55 degrees.
4. If you plan to be away:
 - a. Have someone check your house daily to make sure the heat is still on to prevent freezing, or
 - b. Drain and shut off the water system (except indoor sprinkler systems)

What to do if pipes freeze:

1. Make sure you and your family know how to shut off the water, in case pipes burst.
2. NEVER try to thaw a pipe with an open flame or torch.
3. Always be careful of the potential for electric shock in and around standing water.

Carbon monoxide poisoning is a silent, deadly killer that claims roughly 1,000 lives each year in the United States.

1. Ensure that you have carbon monoxide detectors installed per code in your house.
2. NEVER run generators indoors.
3. Open a window slightly if you use a kerosene heater and follow the manufacturer's instructions. Ensure that any heater that is used indoors to supplement heat is listed for interior use.
4. NEVER use a gas oven to heat your home.
5. If your heat goes out, you can keep warm indoors by closing off rooms you do not need, dressing in layers of lightweight clothing, and wear a winter hat.

Wood-burning stoves, fireplaces, and heaters:

1. Always keep a screen around an open flame.
2. NEVER use gasoline to start your fireplace.
3. NEVER burn charcoal indoors.
4. Do not close the damper when ashes are hot.
5. Use only safe sources of alternative heat such as a fireplace, small well-vented wood or coal stove, or portable space heaters. Always follow manufacturer's instructions.
6. Ensure combustible materials are the proper distance away from stoves or heating sources.
7. Properly dispose of ash safely.
 - a. Allow ash to cool fully before handling.
 - b. Do not place ash in trash cans; they can ignite rubbish.
 - c. Douse with water and place in a metal container at least 10 feet from the home or other buildings.

Animal and Pet Safety:

1. Bring pets inside.
2. Provide shelter and fresh water.
3. Keep salt away from paws.

Vehicle Preparation:

1. Check your battery
2. Check your fluids (coolant, wiper fluid, oil, etc.)
3. Check your tires
4. Have jumper cables
5. Pack a blanket

For more information, visit:

<https://www.weather.gov/media/safety/windchillchart3.pdf>

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

https://www.redcross.org/get-help/how-to-prepare-for-emergencies/types-of-emergencies/winter-storm.html?srsId=AfmBOoqZ-sIlywtjNM26RBagGETtou1-Chx8WQTb9w_CcukxLvA6Mfid