

READY

Because hoping an
emergency doesn't
happen is not a plan...



SMITHFIELD

COLD & WINTER WEATHER

Danger lurks in winter's frigid weather...

When chilly weather is replaced with extremely cold temperatures, a dangerous situation may not be too far away. Whether at home, at work, or in your vehicle, be aware of the hazards that extreme cold weather presents.

⇒ Prepare your home...

Keep your family warm with safe heat.

Ensuring a warm home can be a challenge during periods of frigid weather. Heaters and heating devices can pose a safety risk if improperly used. Read, understand and follow manufacturers' recommendations and instructions on how to properly use heating equipment in your home.

- ✓ **Combustion heaters.** Use fireplaces, wood burning stoves or pellet stoves only if they have been properly installed and vented to prevent flue gases from entering the living spaces of your home.
- ✓ **Heater fuel.** Only use the type of fuel your heater is designed to burn. Never substitute fuels.
- ✓ **Electric space heaters.** Do not use a space heater within 3 feet of any combustible material (such as walls, furniture, bedding, drapes, etc.). Never place a space heater on top of chairs, cabinets or other furniture and always keep space heaters away from water. Do not use extension cords with space heaters and make sure that power cords are not frayed or damaged. Never leave children or pets unattended near a space heater.

Prevent carbon monoxide (CO) poisoning.

Carbon monoxide, an odorless, colorless and tasteless gas, is produced whenever a fossil fuel is burned. Malfunctioning heating equipment and systems, such as boilers and furnaces as well as damaged chimneys and flues can cause carbon monoxide to leak into living spaces and can be fatal.

- ✓ **Carbon monoxide detector.** In addition to your smoke detector, check batteries and test your carbon monoxide detector. Never use gas or charcoal grilles, propane heaters, camp stoves or generators indoors. If your CO detector activates, get out of your home without delay and **dial 9-1-1**. Some common symptoms of CO poisoning include headache, dizziness, weakness, nausea, vomiting, chest pain and confusion. High levels of CO inhalation can cause loss of consciousness and death. If someone experiences these symptoms, **seek medical attention immediately**.

Avoid broken water pipes.

Did you know that frozen water in pipes can exert 2000 pounds of pressure per square inch? Frozen pipes lead to ruptured water lines and can cause thousands of dollars in property damage. When very cold temperatures are expected, you can prevent frozen pipes with a few simple steps.

- ✓ **Allow taps to drip.** Leave faucets slightly open to continuously drip when extremely cold temperatures are forecast.
- ✓ **Allow warm air to circulate around pipes.** Open cabinet doors under sinks to allow air flow from the room to reach pipes.
- ✓ **Dealing with frozen pipes.** Use a hairdryer to thaw pipes. **Never** use a torch or other open flame to thaw pipes due to the increased threat of accidental fire.

Heavy snow and ice loads on rooftop.

Build up of snow and ice on roofs as well as "ice dams" (frozen water on the edge of roofs, soffits, or in gutters that cause water to pool on rooftops) can quickly compromise the structural integrity of your home. Be aware of this threat and safely take action should your roof be under extreme weight due to snow, ice and ice dams.

- ✓ **Watch for signs of roof failure.** If your roof is capped with snow and ice, pay close attention for any signs of sagging, bowing, cracks in sheet rock and/or doors/windows which are not opening or closing properly. Listen for the sound of cracking or popping wood. These are signs of possible collapse. Evacuate from your home at once and **dial 9-1-1**.
- ✓ **Have a licensed professional remove snow and ice from roofs.** Attempting to remove snow and ice from your roof is **extremely dangerous** and should be done by qualified professionals using proper equipment operated from the ground. Never climb onto roofs to shovel and do not bring snow blowers (or other snow removal equipment) onto roofs to clear snow.

⇒ Prepare your vehicle and travel plans...

Try to complete all non-essential travel before severe winter weather arrives. If travel is essential, allow extra travel time and notify a family member or friend when you are going to be driving during inclement weather. Make sure your vehicle is ready for winter and is properly serviced to avoid break downs. Here is a list of emergency supplies for your car or truck.

- ✓ Warm blankets
- ✓ First aid kit
- ✓ Windshield scraper
- ✓ Jumper cables
- ✓ Phone charger
- ✓ Sand or rock salt
- ✓ Tow rope
- ✓ Collapsible/folding shovel
- ✓ Drinking water
- ✓ Non-perishable snacks
- ✓ Flashlights & batteries
- ✓ Windshield washer fluid
- ✓ Dry gas
- ✓ Ice melt
- ✓ Chemical light/glow sticks
- ✓ Gloves, scarf and hats

⇒ Prepare for your health and your family's...

Your health can be severely affected by winter weather. Extra caution should be used even if you're healthy. Wind chill (actual air temperature + wind speed = feel like temperatures) plays a big role in how much time you can be exposed to the cold. Also, know the signs and symptoms of heart attack as well as hypothermia and frostbite.

- ✓ **Avoid a bite from Jack Frost.** Dress in layers and stay dry. Shivering and numb fingers and toes are warning signs not to be ignored and are indicators of hypothermia and frostbite. Stop outdoor work or play and head indoors to warm-up.
- ✓ **For those with pre-existing medical conditions.** Contact your doctor for advice before exerting yourself shoveling snow or other winter-time activities that are strenuous.
- ✓ **Outdoor winter fun.** When sledding, the American Academy of Orthopedic Surgeons recommends wearing a bicycle helmet to avoid head injuries when sledding. Never allow children to play in snow piles made by plow trucks. Since clean-up operations often continue after snowfall has ended, children playing in hollowed out snow piles at the ends of streets may become trapped and suffocate when plows push snow back to widen streets and parking lots.

Wind speed	Actual air temperature					
	40°	30°	20°	10°	0°	-10°
"Feel like" temperature on your skin						
10 MPH	34°	21°	9°	-4°	-16°	-28°
20 MPH	20°	17°	4°	-9°	-22°	-35°
30 MPH	28°	15°	1°	-12°	-26°	-39°
40 MPH	27°	13°	-1°	-15°	-29°	-43°
50 MPH	26°	12°	-3°	-17°	-31°	-45°
60 MPH	25°	10°	-4°	-19°	-33°	-48°

Frostbite times	30 minutes	10 Minutes	5 minutes

⇒ Winter weather forecast terms from the National Weather Service...

- **Blizzard Warning** – Conditions are favorable for a blizzard event within the next 24-72 hours. Sustained wind or frequent gusts of 35 MPH or more accompanied with falling/blowing snow that reduces visibility to less than ¼ mile for 3 hours or more.
- **Winter Storm Watch** – Conditions for the potential of accumulating snow of 6 or more inches in a 12 hour period.
- **Winter Storm Warning** – Severe winter weather conditions such as icing and/or heavy snow are expected or are occurring resulting in dangerous travel conditions.
- **Wind Chill Warning** – Issued when wind chill values are expected to be hazardous to life, especially when a person be exposed to elements for more than just a few minutes.

