

Winter Weather Preparedness



[Winter Weather Safety and Awareness](#) - From the National Weather Service

PEMA recommends the following precautions as winter weather approaches:

- Store drinking water, first-aid kit, canned/no-cook food, non-electric can opener, radio, flashlight and extra batteries where you can get them easily, even in the dark.
- Know how the public is warned (radio, television, etc.) and the warning terms for each kind of broadcast weather alert in your community, for example:
 - o “Winter storm watch” -- Be alert, a storm is likely;
 - o “Winter storm warning” -- Take action, the storm is in or entering the area;
 - o “Blizzard warning” -- Snow and strong winds combined will produce blinding snow, near zero visibility, deep drifts, and life-threatening wind chill -- seek refuge immediately;
 - o “Winter weather advisory” -- Winter weather conditions are expected to cause significant inconveniences and may be hazardous, especially to motorists;
 - o “Frost/freeze warning” -- Below-freezing temperatures are expected and may cause damage to plants, crops or fruit trees;
 - o “Flash flood or flood watch” -- Be alert to signs of flash flooding and be ready to evacuate on a moment’s notice;
 - o “Flash flood warning” -- A flash flood is imminent -- act quickly to save yourself because you may have only seconds; and
 - o “Flood warning” -- Flooding has been reported or is imminent -- take necessary precautions at once.
- Keep cars and other vehicles fueled and in good repair.
- Winterize vehicles by checking your car battery, ignition system, thermostat, lights, flashers, exhaust, heater, brakes, defroster and tires.
- Ensure your car has adequate antifreeze, windshield washer fluid and oil and check the levels regularly throughout the winter season.
- Assemble a winter emergency kit for your car that includes a shovel, windshield scraper, flashlight, battery powered radio, extra batteries, water, snack food, extra hats and mittens, blanket, tow chain or rope, road salt and sand, booster cables, emergency flares, and a fluorescent distress flag.
- If you must travel by car during a winter weather advisory or winter storm watch, do so in daylight, and don’t travel alone.
- Avoid driving during a winter storm warning or blizzard warning.

- Drive only at a speed that conditions permit; take your time; increase your safety distances between vehicles and brake carefully.
- Keep others informed of your schedule and route, and stay on main roads; when and where possible, bring a cellular telephone for emergency communications.
- Dress in several layers of loose-fitting, light-weight; warm clothing rather than one layer of heavy clothing. Outer garments should be tightly woven and water-repellent. Make sure you have a hat, mittens, a scarf, and sturdy, waterproof boots for each family member.