

Winter Storm Readiness

This playbook outlines a series of actions and supplies needed to prepare for severe winter weather. Ensure safety and readiness by following these steps before a winter storm hits.

Step 1: **Inspection**

Inspect your home for insulation, caulking, and weather stripping to ensure there are no drafts or ways for cold air to enter. Check that your heating system is in good working order.

Step 2: **Emergency Kit**

Prepare an emergency kit that includes items such as non-perishable food, water, flashlight, batteries, blankets, medications, a first aid kit, and a battery-powered or hand-crank radio.

Step 3: **Family Plan**

Develop a family emergency plan that includes how you will communicate, where you will meet if separated, and what each person is responsible for during an emergency.

Step 4: **Travel Precautions**

Keep your vehicle's gas tank full to prevent the fuel line from freezing. Place a winter emergency kit in each car that includes blankets, food, water, and a shovel.

Step 5: **Protect Pipes**

Prevent your pipes from freezing by insulating them and allowing a drip from faucets during extreme cold. Know how to shut off water valves in case a pipe bursts.

Step 6: **Pet Care**

Ensure pets have a warm place to stay and extra food and water. Limit their exposure to the cold and make sure they have identification in case they get lost.

Step 7: **Information**

Stay informed about the weather forecast and emergency instructions from local authorities. Have a way to receive alerts, such as NOAA Weather Radio or a smartphone app.

General Notes

Backup Power

Consider investing in a generator or alternative heating sources and learn how to use them safely.

Extra Supplies

Stock up on additional supplies that may be needed, such as sand for traction, ice melt to clear walkways, and additional heating fuel if you do not use electric heat.