

Winter Storms

During a winter storm, it can be cold, windy, and snowy. A winter storm can last from a few hours to several days. Follow these directions to stay safe.

Just like you call 9-1-1 for help for someone hurt or in danger, you can call 2-1-1 to get information to help with other problems, such as weather problems. Dial 2-1-1 on your phone and say what language you speak. Someone will answer your questions in your language.

Get ready.

Winter Storm Watch means there may be severe winter weather in the next day or two.

Winter Storm Warning means that severe winter weather is coming or is already here.

Winter Weather Advisory means that winter weather may make driving or getting around outside difficult or dangerous.

Blizzard Warning means that snow and strong winds will make it very cold outside and hard to see.

Frost/Freeze Warning means that freezing temperatures are coming that may harm plants and crops.

Listen to the radio.

- Have someone who understands English listen to the radio to find out what is happening and what you should do.

Stay safe during winter storms.

At home:

- Stay at home if you can.
- The electricity may stop working. Have enough food and water to last a few days in case you can't leave home.
- If you have a cell phone, charge it fully.
- Do not use outside cooking grills inside. They can give off gases that can harm or kill you.
- Let water drip in your sinks and bathtubs to help the pipes not freeze.
- Dial 2-1-1 if you lose all your heat or have some other serious problems at home.

Outside:

- If you have to go outside, wear warm clothing to cover your entire body.
- Wear layers of warm clothing. Wear a hat. Cover your mouth and nose with a scarf. Keep your feet dry. Wear wool socks.
- Check often for frozen skin or parts of your body. Frozen skin will look different and may not have any feeling, and may be hard to move. If you notice you have frozen skin or parts of the body, go inside and warm it slowly. Do not rub the frozen parts.
- Be careful walking outside. Sidewalks may be icy and slippery.

In a car:

- If you have to drive, be very careful. It takes longer for a car to stop on snowy and icy roads. Drive slowly, and keep extra distance between your car and the car in front of you.
- Break gently on a snowy or icy road. If your wheels start to lock up, ease off the brake slowly.
- Turn on your car lights so that other cars can see you.
- Keep your car's gas tank full so the gas does not freeze.
- Keep emergency supplies in your car: a blanket, flashlight, windshield washer fluid, windshield scraper, jumper cables, food and water.

- If your car gets stuck in snow far from help, do not walk away to look for help. It is safer to wait for help inside the car. If you need to have the heat on, make sure the exhaust pipe is not covered by snow. If there is no one around, call for help.

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