

# Winter Storms

## PRIMEX<sup>3</sup> RISK MANAGEMENT BULLETIN

### Be Prepared Before a Winter Storm Occurs:



- Check your fire extinguishers, smoke detectors and carbon monoxide detectors to assure they are in good working order.
- Keep pipes from freezing. ❄️
- Keep building temperatures consistent — above 55° Fahrenheit.
- Insulate pipes. Use “pipe-sleeves” or other insulating material. Consider heat tape if needed.
- Open closets and cabinet doors to circulate warm air where pipes are located.
- As an emergency measure, let faucets drip slowly to avoid freezing (not recommended as a permanent measure).
- Make sure you have ready access to emergency equipment such as flashlights, first aid kits and a working battery powered radio.
- Keep fleet vehicles winterized. Carry a survivor kit in your car to include the following: cell phone or radio, blankets, flashlight, sand or cat litter, shovel, windshield scraper, tool kit, tow rope, jumper cables.
- Develop an emergency communication plan. ❄️
- A backup generator is always useful in an emergency situation. Test the generator monthly to determine reliability. Install generator outdoors away from doors and windows. Electrical connections should be performed by a licensed electrician — the use of a transfer switch is a must.



### During and After a Winter Storm:

- Listen to the current weather reports and emergency information. ❄️
- Dress for conditions. Layers of protective clothing are warmer than thick clothing.
- Mittens are warmer than gloves. Wear head gear, such as a winter hat, face mask, and scarf.
- Before shoveling, warm up first, then stretch, and do not overexert yourself if you are unaccustomed to it — cold weather puts an extra strain on the heart and can bring on a heart attack, a major cause of death during and after winter storms.
- Take winter driving seriously; travel only if absolutely necessary, and stay alert!
- Watch for signs of frostbite or hypothermia. If symptoms are detected, seek medical attention.



**Remember:** *Keep your fleet vehicles winterized!*



# Winter Storms (continued)

## Weather Emergency Terms You Should Know:

- **BLIZZARD WARNING**  
Snow and strong winds will combine to produce a blinding snow with zero visibility, deep drifts, and life-threatening windchill! Avoid going outdoors!
- **WINTER STORM WARNING**  
Snow, sleet, and ice expected! **Take action!** Confidence is high that a winter storm will produce heavy snow, sleet, or freezing rain and cause significant impacts.
- **WINTER STORM WATCH**  
Snow, sleet, and ice possible! **Be prepared!** Confidence is medium that a winter storm will produce heavy snow, sleet, or freezing rain and cause significant impacts.
- **WINTER STORM ADVISORY**  
Winter weather expected! **Exercise caution!** Light amounts of wintry precipitation or patchy blowing snow will cause slick conditions and could affect travel if precautions are not taken.



Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA):  
<https://www.ready.gov/winter-weather>

The Weather Channel:  
[https://www.dosomething.org/us/facts/  
11-facts-about-blizzards](https://www.dosomething.org/us/facts/11-facts-about-blizzards)



For more information, please contact your Primex<sup>3</sup> Risk Management Consultant at 800-698-2364 or email [RiskManagement@nhprimex.org](mailto:RiskManagement@nhprimex.org).

