

# Winter Weather Safety Checklist

Winter storms bring freezing temperatures, and potentially snow and icy conditions. Here are some tips from the Northshore Fire Department for keeping you and your family a little safer during the winter months.

## Prepare yourself for cold weather

- Dress for the season. Several layers of thin clothing are warmer than single layers of thick clothing. Wear a hat and mittens or gloves.
- Take it slow and easy if you must shovel snow – don't overexert.
- Stay informed – listen to the radio or television for updates on weather conditions.

## Prepare you home for the winter

- Insulate exposed water pipes and cover faucets in unheated areas.
- Make sure you have sufficient heating fuel.
- Have available some kind of emergency heating equipment and fuel (a gas fireplace or a wood burning stove or fireplace) so you can keep at least one room of your house warm.
- Keep fire extinguishers on hand and test your smoke detectors monthly.
- Clear storm drains near your home of leaves and other debris, so rain or melting snow can drain freely.
- Locate your water main shut-off valve.
- If you lose natural gas service, call Puget Sound Energy restore the service. Do not turn the gas back on yourself.
- In case of a power outage, make sure that you have a radio and flashlight with extra batteries, food that can be prepared without an electric or gas stove, and a non-electric can opener.

## Prepare your vehicle for winter travel

- Check the antifreeze and battery.
- Make sure tires have good tread and are properly inflated.
- Carry emergency items including:
  - Traction devices
  - Battery booster cables
  - Flashlight and batteries
  - Rain gear and warm clothing
  - Windshield scraper
  - Shovel
  - Blanket or sleeping bag
  - Compass and road map
  - First Aid Kit
  - Fluorescent distress flag and emergency flares

## Traveling in snow conditions

- Travel only if necessary. Use public transportation as much as possible.
- If you drive your own vehicle, travel only in daylight on major roads.
- Plan your travel and select primary and alternate routes.
- Let someone know your schedule and destination.
- Adjust you speed to traffic and road conditions and wear your seat belt.

## If weather conditions leave you stranded in your vehicle

- Stay off the road; stay calm and remain in your vehicle where rescuers are most likely to find you.
- Signal trouble by setting directional lights to "flashing", raising the hood, or tying a cloth or distress flag on the antenna.
- If you run the engine to keep warm, open a window a bit for ventilation. Periodically clear away snow from the exhaust pipe.
- Be careful not to use up battery power. Rotate the use of lights, heat and radio.
- At night, turn on the inside dome light so work crews can spot you.

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