

What steps should you take to prepare for a winter storm emergency?

Don't let severe winter storms in Colorado catch you unprepared. Here are some tips to help you get ready for this season's snow emergencies.

Before a winter storm, make sure you have, or do, the following:

- Make a 72 hour emergency kit
- Store 72 hours of food and water
- NOAA Weather Radio
- Snow shovels and ice scrapers
- Generator
- Flashlights and extra batteries
- Rock salt for icy sidewalks
- Insulate doors and windows
- Insulate water lines and/or pipes.
- Learn how to identify and treat frostbite and hypothermia through Red Cross training.
- Fill prescriptions and other special medical needs

During a winter storm:

- Monitor weather radio, local radio and/or TV.
- Stay indoors and dress warmly.
- Close off unused rooms.
- Check on neighbors, especially the elderly or disabled.
- Extra food, water, and shelter for pets
- Refrain from using candles and space heaters as a heat source.

After a winter storm:

- Continue to monitor weather radio and/or local radio and TV
- Avoid driving until conditions improve
- Avoid overexertion to prevent a heart attack when shoveling snow
- Drink water to avoid dehydration
- Check on your neighbors, especially the medically fragile, elderly, or those with small children.

Winter driving:

- Plan your travel and check the latest weather reports
- Call the Colorado Department of Transportation for road conditions: 303-639-1111 or 1-877-315-7623.
- Travel in the daylight and avoid night driving in a winter storm.
- Keep cat litter for tire traction
- Emergency kit and road flares
- Non perishable food such as power bars and bottled water
- Keep extra blankets, gloves and warm clothes in car
- Do not travel alone
- Inform others of your schedule and route
- Stay on the main roads.

If a blizzard traps you in the car:

- Pull off the road, set hazard lights to flashing and hang a distress flag from the radio antenna or window.
- Remain in your vehicle; rescuers are most likely to find you there.
- Conserve fuel! Run the engine and heater about ten minutes each hour to keep warm, and slightly open a downwind window to prevent carbon monoxide poisoning.
- Do not set out on foot unless you are sure you can reach nearby shelter
- Keep tailpipe clear of snow.