

How to be Prepared for a **Blizzard**



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Each year, hundreds of Americans are injured or killed by exposure to cold, vehicle accidents on wintry roads, and fire caused by the improper use of heaters. It is important to be prepared so that you can stay safe during blizzards and winter storms.

Protect your family by planning ahead

Tip 1

- Talk with your family about what to do if a winter storm watch or warning is issued.
- Keep your vehicle's gas tank full, in case you need to leave quickly in an emergency and to keep the fuel line from freezing.
- Keep a supply of non-clumping kitty litter to make walkways and steps less slippery.
- Service snow removal equipment before the winter storm season and maintain it in good working order.
- Keep a warm coat, gloves, hat, water-resistant boots, and extra blankets and warm clothing for everyone in your household.

Protect your home by following these steps

Tip 2

- Make sure home heating services are installed according to local codes and are in working order.
- Make sure your home is properly insulated. Caulk and weather strip doors and windows to keep cold air out.
- Install storm doors or cover windows with plastic for an extra layer of insulation.
- Consider buying emergency heating equipment or installing a portable generator.

In addition, follow these steps to stay ahead of the storm

Tip 3

- Listen to local area radio, NOAA radio, or TV stations for the latest information and updates.
- Be prepared to evacuate if you lose power or heat. Find a local emergency shelter that you can go to.
- Check your emergency kit and replenish any items missing or in short supply, especially medications and medical supplies. Keep it nearby.
- Be sure you have ample heating fuel.
- Bring your animals and pets inside and ensure that your livestock and horses are safe and have access to shelter, food, and non-frozen water.

Winter Storm Warning vs. Blizzard Warning

- A winter storm warning indicates that life-threatening, severe winter conditions have begun or will begin within 24 hours.
- A blizzard warning indicates conditions that include sustained winds or frequent gusts of 35 miles per hour or greater, plus considerable falling or blowing snow reducing visibility to less than a quarter mile, expected to prevail for three hours or longer.

Winterize Your Vehicle

Have your vehicle winterized before the winter storm season to decrease your chances of being stranded.

- Have a mechanic check your battery, antifreeze, wipers and windshield washer fluid, ignition system, thermostat, lights, flashing hazard lights, exhaust system, heater, brakes, defroster, and oil.
- Install good winter tires with adequate tread.

Caution: Carbon Monoxide

Never use a generator, grill, or other gasoline, propane, natural gas, or charcoal-burning devices inside a home, garage, basement, crawlspace, or any partially enclosed area. The primary hazards to avoid when using alternate sources for electricity, heating, or cooking are carbon monoxide poisoning, electric shock, and fire.



Loup Basin
PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT