

Guidelines on Preparing for Winter Storms

Prepare a checklist:

1. Set Up Weather Alerts on Your Smartphone. CodeRed provides local and NWS alerts.

2. Stock Up on Supplies:

Food – It's a good idea to have a week or more of food stockpiled before a winter storm arrives. Non-perishable items can be a lifesaver if your refrigerator or freezer goes out during a power outage.

Water – Bottled water can save the day if your tap water ends up freezing due to extreme cold conditions.

Toiletries and first aid supplies –

Medications – Make sure you have enough medication on hand to get you through the next seven days or so.

Pet food –

Flashlights, camping lanterns, or candles - Just be careful with candles—unattended candle flames can cause house fires, which are much more common during the winter months.

Batteries –

3. Take Stock of Your Heating Options:

Furnaces

Portable space heaters

Indoor propane heaters (preferably with oxygen sensors)

Firewood (if you have a wood-burning fireplace)

4. Bring Out the Extra Blankets

5. Charge Up Your Electronics

6. Print Out Important Information - If all your devices run out of battery, you may want to have some essential information printed out, such as the phone numbers of your family members, close friends, and doctors.

7. Service your Generator – Have extra fuel on hand.

Note: Never bring your generator inside, as it could put you at risk for carbon monoxide poisoning.

8. Stay off the Roads – If you must drive, allow plenty of time and slow down. Keep blankets and supplies in your vehicle in case you get stranded.