

Washington Winter Weather Information

With the most recent cold weather that has hit the area, Bothell's Division of Emergency Management would like to remind people to be prepared for winter conditions that could threaten their safety.

Winter storms are considered deceptive killers because most deaths are indirectly related to the storm such as traffic accidents on icy roads or people dying from prolonged exposure to the cold.

It is important to start taking preventive measures for winter weather. Now is the perfect time to winterize your car and home, gather items for a disaster kit, and make sure you have a NOAA Weather Radio All Hazards, or a commercial radio with fresh batteries.

The following are additional winter weather tips...



Winter Driving in Washington

Winter Facts

- Many crashes are caused by “driving too fast for current conditions.” Also when the first blast of winter arrives, motorists often need to “re-learn” how to drive in slippery conditions.
- Heavy rains and snowmelt in late winter or early spring can result in flooded roads. *Turn Around—Don't Drown!*

Winter Driving

Plan your travels and check the latest weather reports to avoid the storm. You can find out the latest road conditions by going to the Washington Department of Transportation website at <http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/traffic/seattle/>.

It is also important to check and winterize your vehicles before the winter season begins.

Keep your gas tank near full to avoid ice in the tank and fuel lines. Carry a winter storm survival kit in your vehicle that includes:

- Blankets or sleeping bags
- Flashlight with extra batteries
- First-Aid Kit
- Shovel, tools, booster cables and windshield scraper
- High-calorie non-perishable food
- Sand or cat litter to use for traction



The National Weather Service (NWS) issues storm warning and watches. Here's what they mean and what you should do.

Winter Storm Watch—Winter storm conditions (heavy snow, sleet and freezing rain) are possible within the next 36-48 hours. Continue monitoring the weather forecast.

Winter Storm or Ice Storm Warning –A significant winter event is occurring or will begin in the next 24 hours. The combination of snow, sleet, freezing rain, and moderate winds will impact travel and outdoor activities. Take necessary precautions—consider canceling travel plans.

What is possible- Residents can expect almost anything - ranging from killer dense fog and flooding rains to widespread heavy snows and blizzards that can isolate a village/city for days.

Keep Warm and Safe

Frostbite is damage to body tissue caused by extreme cold. A wind chill of -20° Fahrenheit (F) could cause frostbite in just 15 minutes or less. Frostbite causes a loss of feeling and a white or pale appearance in extremities such as fingers, toes, ear tips or the tip of the nose. If symptoms are detected—Seek medical care immediately!



Hypothermia is a condition that develops when the body temperature drops below 95°F . It is very deadly. Warning signs include uncontrollable shivering, disorientation, slurred speech and drowsiness. Seek medical care immediately!

Overexertion is dangerous. Cold weather puts an added strain on the heart. Unaccustomed exercise such as shoveling snow or pushing a car can bring on a heart attack or make an existing medical condition worse.

Pets also need extra care when the temperatures fall. They should be brought inside when the temperature reaches 30° with wind chill. Dogs and cats can get frost bitten ears, nose and feet if left outside during bitter cold weather. Chemicals used to melt snow and ice can also irritate pets' paws and be sure to keep anti-freeze, salt and other poisons away from pets as well.

Be Prepared

Some of the dangers associated with winter storms include loss of heat, power and telephone service and a shortage of supplies. To help protect your family now is the time to put together a disaster supply kit. Here are some items to include:

- Flashlights and extra batteries
- Battery-powered NOAA Weather Radio and a commercial radio
- Non-perishable food that requires no cooking and bottled water
- First-aid supplies
- Fire extinguisher, smoke detector and carbon monoxide detector
- If appropriate, extra medications and baby items
- If you have an emergency heating source, such as a fireplace or space heater -- make sure you have proper ventilation
- Make sure pets have plenty of food, water and shelter



City of Bothell™

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