

WINTER STORMS



■ **Too Cold To Snow? Never!**
Temperatures tend to warm in advance of developing storms, but snow can occur at any temperature that is near or below freezing. In the United States, heavy snows tend to be more frequent with temperatures between 20° and 30° F.

■ **Wind Chil-ly!**
Wind, coupled with cold temperatures, not only makes you feel colder, your body actually reacts as if the temperature were lower! Exposed flesh will freeze in one minute if the winds are blowing 15 mph and the temperature is -10° F, giving a -45° wind chill!

■ **Will It Snow? It's likely...**
When winds are easterly to northeasterly, temperatures are near or below freezing, a low is forecast to move immediately to the south or east, the pressure is falling, and a thickening cloud layer is advancing from the south or west.

■ **Think Warm!**
Scientists often use the Kelvin temperature scale in their research. Maybe it will work for you! On a day when it's freezing outside, don't think of it as 32° F... try thinking it's really 273° Kelvin!

Winter storms bring snow, cold temperatures, and often dangerous driving conditions. The amount of snow that becomes threatening depends on where you live. Large amounts of snow are a regular occurrence in the northern states, while a small amount can cause problems in southern states.

Tips To Get Ready:

- Have your car winterized before winter storm season.
- Be sure you have a family safety kit.
- Have extra blankets and extra medication on hand.
- Check your portable radio and television set to make sure they are in good working order. They may be the only way to have outside contact if a storm rolls in.

During a WATCH

A winter storm WATCH means that severe winter weather conditions

may affect your area. This could mean freezing rain, sleet, or heavy snow. If a winter storm WATCH is issued for your county or parish, **get set.**

- Keep posted on developing weather conditions.
- Avoid unnecessary travel before or during the storm.
- Be extremely careful if you use a portable heater.

During a WARNING

A winter storm WARNING means that severe winter weather (freezing rain, sleet, or heavy snow) is about to occur. If a winter storm WARNING is issued for your area, **go to safety.**

- Stay indoors during the storm.
- If you must go outside, wear several layers of clothes. Several layers of clothes will keep you warmer than a single heavy coat. Gloves (or mittens) and a hat will help you from losing your body heat.

UNION CITY FIRE DEPARTMENT



- Be careful walking on snowy, icy sidewalks.
- If you go outside to shovel snow remember to be extremely careful. It is physically strenuous work, so don't over-exert yourself.

Avoid Traveling In A Storm, But If You Must -

- Keep your gas tank full for emergency use and to keep the fuel line from freezing.
- Let someone know when you expect to arrive. If your car does get stuck along the way, they can send out help along your predetermined route.
- Have emergency supplies in the trunk, including blankets.

If You Do Get Stuck -

- Stay with your car. **DO NOT** try to walk to safety.
- Tie a brightly colored cloth to the antenna and raise it high for rescuers to see.
- Leave the overhead light on so that you can be seen.
- As you sit, keep moving your arms and legs to keep blood circulating and stay warm.
- Keep one window slightly open to let in air.
- Use your heater only sparingly. Have the window away from the blowing wind open. Keep the exhaust pipe clear so fumes won't back up into the car.



A heavy snow **WARNING** means at least 4 inches in 12 hours or 6 inches in 24 hours is expected. (In areas where snow is less common, a **WARNING** may be issued even if predicted snowfall is not great.)

A blizzard **WARNING** means a lot of falling and/or blowing snow and winds of at least 35 miles per hour are expected for several hours.

An ice storm **WARNING** means significant, possibly damaging, ice accumulation is expected. Freezing rain (or drizzle) means precipitation is expected to freeze when it hits exposed surfaces.



 is the internationally recognized symbol for snow.