

EMERGENCY Response Guidelines

Winter Storms

Winter storms range from a moderate snow over a few hours to a blizzard with blinding, wind-driven snow that lasts for more than one day. Many winter storms are accompanied by dangerously low temperatures and sometimes by strong winds, icing, sleet and freezing rain. Extreme winter weather can knock out heat, power and communications services to home or office.

During Winter Storms and Extreme Cold

- Stay indoors during the storm.
- Walk carefully on snowy, icy, walkways.
- Keep dry.
- Watch for signs of frostbite. These include loss of feeling and white or pale appearance in extremities such as fingers, toes, ear lobes, and the tip of the nose.
- Watch for signs of hypothermia. These include uncontrollable shivering, memory loss, disorientation, incoherence, slurred speech, drowsiness, and apparent exhaustion.
- Drive only if it is absolutely necessary. If you must drive: travel in the day; don't travel alone; keep others informed of your schedule; stay on main roads and avoid back road shortcuts.
- Let someone know your destination, your route, and when you expect to arrive. If your car gets stuck along the way, help can be sent along your predetermined route.

Tornado

Tornadoes are nature's most violent storms. Spawned from powerful thunderstorms, tornadoes can cause fatalities and devastate a neighborhood in seconds.

A public warning can be broadcast over the radio, TV, or with the emergency warning sirens when there is a tornado warning in effect.

If a tornado warning has been issued and you are inside

- Go to an area such as a safe room, basement, or the lowest building level. If there is no basement, go to the center of a small interior room on the lowest level (closet, interior hallway) away from corners, windows, doors, and outside walls. Put as many walls as possible between you and the outside. Get under a sturdy table and use your arms to protect your head and neck.
- In a high-rise building, go to a small interior room or hallway on the lowest floor possible.
- Do not use the elevators.
- Do not leave the shelter area until after the storm is over and the all clear is given.

If a tornado warning has been issued and you are outside

- Look for a nearby safe structure in which to take shelter.

