

Weekly Safety Briefings

Week 47: Monday, November 17 – Friday, November 21, 2025

Preparing for Winter Weather

Introduction

For many of us in the northern hemisphere, winter is fast approaching or already arrived. There are some simple steps to preparing your workplace and household for the pending winter weather. This week we will discuss some of those tips, so your winter season is a wonderland and not a nightmare.

Monday – Winter Weather Hazards

Harsh winter weather brings many additional hazards, including higher risk of car accidents, power outages, cold related injuries and carbon monoxide poisoning. They can also be very unpredictable, lasting several hours or several days. Some simple steps can help prepare you and your loved ones for harsh weather conditions including those we will discuss in tomorrow's topic.

Tuesday – How to Stay Safe During Winter Storms

Yesterday we discussed some of the hazards associated with harsh winter weather. Today we will dive into some tips for staying safe during these conditions.

- Stay off the roads when possible.
- Stay indoors and dress warmly.
- Use generators outside only and away from windows.
- Listen for emergency information and alerts.
- Check on neighbors and loved ones, especially anyone living alone.

Wednesday – Prepare now!

Preparation can prevent catastrophe. Today we will discuss some ways to prepare your household and workplace for the winter season.

- Know your area's risk for winter storms.
- Prepare your home and workplace to keep out the cold weather with insulation, caulking and weather stripping.
- Know your winter weather terms, more on that topic tomorrow.
- Sign up for your community's weather alert system.
- Gather supplies in case you need to stay home for several days without power.
- Keep extra batteries on hand for flashlights and radios.
- Create an emergency supply kit for your car, more on this Friday.

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Thursday – Winter Weather Terms

Understanding the terms used in weather alerts will help you better prepare for what's to come. Today we will focus on defining winter weather terms.

- Outlook: means winter weather that may cause significant impact in 3 to 7 days and eventually may lead to the issuance of a watch or warning.
- Watch: generally issued 24 to 72 hours prior to an impending winter weather event. It is intended provide enough lead time so those that need to make plans can do so.
- Warning: Issued when a hazardous winter weather event is occurring, imminent or has a very high probability of occurrence. A warning is used for conditions that pose a threat to life or property.

Friday – What to Have in Your Emergency Supply Kit

It's often difficult to expect the unexpected but keeping a few key supplies stocked in your vehicle, especially during times of harsh weather, can provide some peace of mind and may be critical to keeping you and your loved ones safe. Today we will provide a list of some key items.

- Jumper cables
- Flares or reflective triangle
- Ice scraper
- Phone charger
- Blankets
- Map
- Cat litter or sand (for better tire traction)
- Non-perishable snacks/water