

Are You Ready for a Winter Storm?



Would you know how to protect your family from a severe winter storm that entails blizzard conditions, ice storms or sub-zero temperatures? The Ohio Committee for Severe Weather Awareness encourages Ohioans to learn what to do to prepare for and recover from natural and home disasters. Everyone should know the definitions of **winter storm watch**, **winter storm warning** and a **frost/freeze warning**. A winter storm watch means a winter storm is possible; a winter storm warning means a winter storm is occurring or will soon occur; a frost/freeze warning means below freezing temperatures are expected during the fall and spring seasons. Ohioans should take the proper steps to protect their families and homes before disasters strike.

- ✓ **Prepare a disaster supply kit.** Ensure you have enough supplies to survive on your own for at least three days. Include winter specific items such as rock salt to melt ice on walkways, sand to improve traction, snow shovels and other snow removal equipment. Keep a stock of food and extra drinking water.
- ✓ **Prepare for possible isolation in your home.** Have sufficient heating fuel (regular fuel sources may be cut off). Have emergency heating equipment and fuel. Store a good supply of dry, seasoned wood for your fireplace or wood-burning stove. Keep fire extinguishers on hand, and ensure your household knows how to use them.
- ✓ **Winterize your home to extend the life of your fuel supply:** insulate walls and attics; caulk and weather-strip windows and doors; install storm windows or cover windows with plastic.
- ✓ Listen to the radio, television or invest in a tone-alert weather radio for weather reports and emergency information.