

Winter Storm Watch

The County Office of Emergency Services advises citizens and visitors to the area to prepare for a cold winter storm.

Preparation is Crucial

Prepare in advance of this storm by loading up on:

potable water

pet food

live batteries

other needed items

battery operated radio

at least three days supply of food and water for every person in your household

foods that can be eaten without cooking

connected phone that does not need electricity to run

medical supplies and prescriptions

warm clothes and blankets

Note: roaming phones and cell phones can have their power knocked out

firewood and generator fuel

Medically fragile or special needs people may want to visit a relative or friend in a very low elevation leaving by Wed. night or Thurs. morning before the storms hit. If you know of local people who fit this description you are encouraged to check in on them now to see what they might need, or assist them in finding temporary living space below 1500 feet.

Once the storms hit, unless it is an emergency, PLEASE stay home. Park your cars out of the roadways and road right of ways so that snow plows can get through unimpeded. If you must travel, drive slowly and only with chains and/or four wheel drive vehicles. If you need to get out, be patient, Wait for road crews to clear the road rather than trying to ram your way through the snow. This causes unnecessary accidents and more work for emergency response crews.

If you are without power for any extended period of time, you may want to either load up your refrigerator with packed snow in bowls or transfer your refrigerated items out into the snow in an ice chest to keep everything at a safe temperature.

If you are using generator for heat keep it well-ventilated. The same goes for camping lanterns that use white gas. Use these only in a well ventilated space to prevent the risk of carbon monoxide poisoning.

To report any unsafe road conditions such as downed trees, power lines down, mudslides, rocks and boulders in the roadway please call: 533-5601

(Information taken from the Office of Emergency Services press release on 02-23-11.)