

Be prepared: Winter Storms



Winter storms cause more fatalities in Canada than tornadoes, thunderstorms, lightning, floods and hurricanes combined.

Heavy snowfall and ice can make roads treacherous and interrupt power supplies.

Safety tips

- Avoid unnecessary travel.
- Wear layers of lightweight clothing, mittens & a hat. Wear waterproof, insulated boots to keep your feet warm and dry and to keep from slipping on ice and snow.
- Regularly check for frostbite — numbness or white areas on your face and body (ears, nose, cheeks, hands and feet in particular).
- Avoid overexertion when shoveling snow by taking frequent breaks. Use rock salt and sand to melt ice and improve traction on sidewalks and driveways.
- Bring pets inside and move livestock to sheltered areas with non-frozen drinking water.
- In rural areas: string a lifeline between your house & any outbuildings you may have to visit during a storm. Install snow fences to reduce drifting snow on roads and paths.

How to prepare

Winterize your home

Insulate walls and attics; caulk or weather-strip doors and windows; install storm windows or cover windows with plastic. Get heating equipment and chimneys cleaned and inspected once a year.

Make your kit seasonal

Add extra blankets and warm clothes to your emergency preparedness kits (home kit, car kit). Have multiple ways of staying warm in case of power outage.

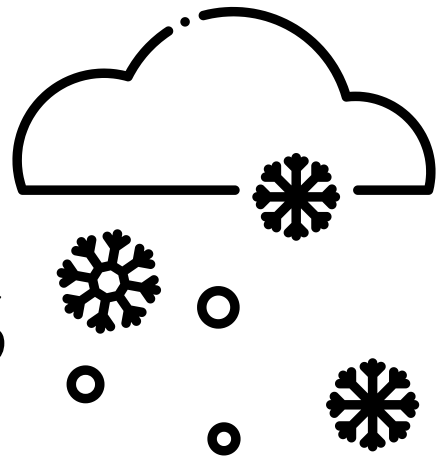
Check on vulnerable people

Check on older family members, neighbours, and friends, especially if they are ill or living with a disability. If you're able, provide supplies to keep them warm and comfortable.

Stay informed

- Check local weather and forecasts online.
- Check Ontario511 for road conditions and driving information.
- Check with your local school board for information on cancelled classes & buses.
- Check with your municipality for information on snow removal services & special rules in place during a snow emergency.

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Outdoor safety

- Wear weather-appropriate clothes (layers, hats, gloves, boots).
- Take breaks inside to warm up.
- Regularly check for frostbite.

Winterize your preparedness kit

- Add extra blankets, and warm clothes and accessories to your home and car kits.
- Include multiple sources of heat in the event of a power outage.
- Keep electronics fully charged.
- Put flashlights/batteries in all major rooms at home.

Stay informed

- Check local weather and forecasts online.
- Check Ontario511 for road conditions & driving information.
Avoid unnecessary travel.
- Check your local municipality for information on snow removal services & warming centres.