

Winter Storms

Even Texas has winter weather. Every year there are deaths in Texas attributed to winter weather. Many of these deaths are due to accidents, house fires and exertion. You can prepare yourself and your home for winter weather.

Before Winter Weather Arrives:

1. Write a Family Disaster Plan.
2. Assemble a Home Disaster Kit.
3. Assemble a Vehicle Travel Kit that contains blankets, non-perishable foods, water, flares, etc.
4. Listen to weather forecasts.
5. Make sure your vehicle is prepared for winter weather by keeping it in top-notch condition.
6. Have your home heating system check and cleaned.
7. Keep your smoke detectors in good working order.
8. Insulate pipes, seal cracks and other gaps that let in cold air, and add weather stripping to windows and doors.
9. Consider buying carbon monoxide detector.

During a Winter Storm:

1. Stay inside as much as possible.
2. Be vigilant to fire dangers when using fire places, heaters, etc. for extra heating.
3. Close off unused rooms.
4. Wear layers of loose fitting clothing.
5. Make sure your pets are kept warm, too.
6. When outside, do not over exert yourself.
7. When traveling, let others know what route you are taking and when you plan to arrive at your destination.
8. If stranded in your vehicle, only run the engine for 10 minutes per hour for heating, tie a colored cloth to the vehicle antenna.
9. Avoid alcohol. It might make you feel warmer but it actually results in faster loss to heat and reduces judgment.