

PREPARING FOR EXTREME COLD AND WINTER STORMS



BE AWARE

Winter begins December 21 and ends on March 20. It's possible the District could experience winter weather before or after these dates.

- Overexertion is a major cause of death during the winter. Take it easy when shoveling snow!
- DC law requires residents and business owners to remove snow from sidewalks and steps within eight hours of daylight after the snow stops.
- You can find information on the District's snow plan and response at snow.dc.gov.

WHAT TO DO DURING A WINTER STORM:

- Listen to the radio or television for information.
- Stay on main roads; avoid back roads and alleys.
- Keep your gas tank as full as possible during cold months.
- Dress for the weather. Wear several layers of loose fitting, light weight, warm clothing rather than one layer of heavy clothing. Wear mittens, a hat and cover your mouth with a scarf to protect your lungs.
- Be aware of the fire danger from space heaters and candles.
- Stay indoors and use safe heating sources.
- Drink plenty of non-alcoholic fluids and eat high calorie foods.
- Keep an emergency supply kit in your home, car and workplace.
- Clear snow and ice from sidewalks and steps next to your home and/or business.
- When a snow emergency is in effect, motorists may not park on snow emergency routes (indicated by red and white signs). Vehicles parked on snow emergency routes may be ticketed then towed to the Blue Plains Impoundment Lot (5001 Shepherd Parkway, SW). Snow emergency tickets are \$250, the tow fee is \$100 and a storage fee of \$20/day is assessed each day after a vehicle has been impounded for 24 hours.



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BUILD A KIT

An emergency kit is a container of items you may need during or after an emergency. Your emergency kit should be in an easily accessible place. Be sure to consider seniors, children, and pets when preparing your supply kit. For more information, visit ready.dc.gov/kit

GENERAL SUPPLIES

- Water, one gallon of water per person per day for at least three days, for drinking and sanitation
- Food, at least a three day supply of non-perishable food (include manual can opener)
- Radio, either battery-powered or hand-crank, and extra batteries (change batteries at least once a year)
- Flashlight and extra batteries
- First aid kit
- Whistle, to signal for help
- Dust mask, to help filter contaminated air and plastic sheeting and duct tape to shelter-in-place
- Emergency blankets
- Local maps
- Wrench or pliers to turn off utilities
- Cell phone charger, solar or battery powered
- Copies of important documents (insurance policies, prescriptions, phone lists)



STAY INFORMED

AlertDC sends you emergency alert and warning notifications from the District via email or text. Sign up now at alertdc.dc.gov



MAKE A PLAN

Having a plan is the most important way you can help yourself in the case of a disaster or emergency. ReadyDC shares tips on plans for family, seniors, people with disabilities and/or functional needs, pets, and home.



For more information about ReadyDC, contact
DC Homeland Security and Emergency Management:

 **202-727-6161**

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