



READY TO RESPOND NEWSLETTER



CITY OF CHARLESTON

NOVEMBER 2019

CHARLESTON FIRE DEPT

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Winter Weather Preparedness Month

During extremely cold weather or winter storms, staying warm and safe can be a challenge. Winter storms can bring cold temperatures, power failures, loss of communication services, and icy roads. To keep yourself and your loved ones safe, you should know how to prepare your home and your car before a winter storm hits.

<https://www.cdc.gov/disasters/winter/beforestorm/preparehome.html>



Signs of Hypothermia

- Shivering
- Dizziness
- Feeling hungry
- Nausea
- Rapid breathing
- Problems speaking
- Confusion
- Coordination difficulties
- Fatigue
- Rapid heart rate
- Drowsiness
- Weak pulse
- Shallow breathing

Make a Mobile Ready Kit for Winter



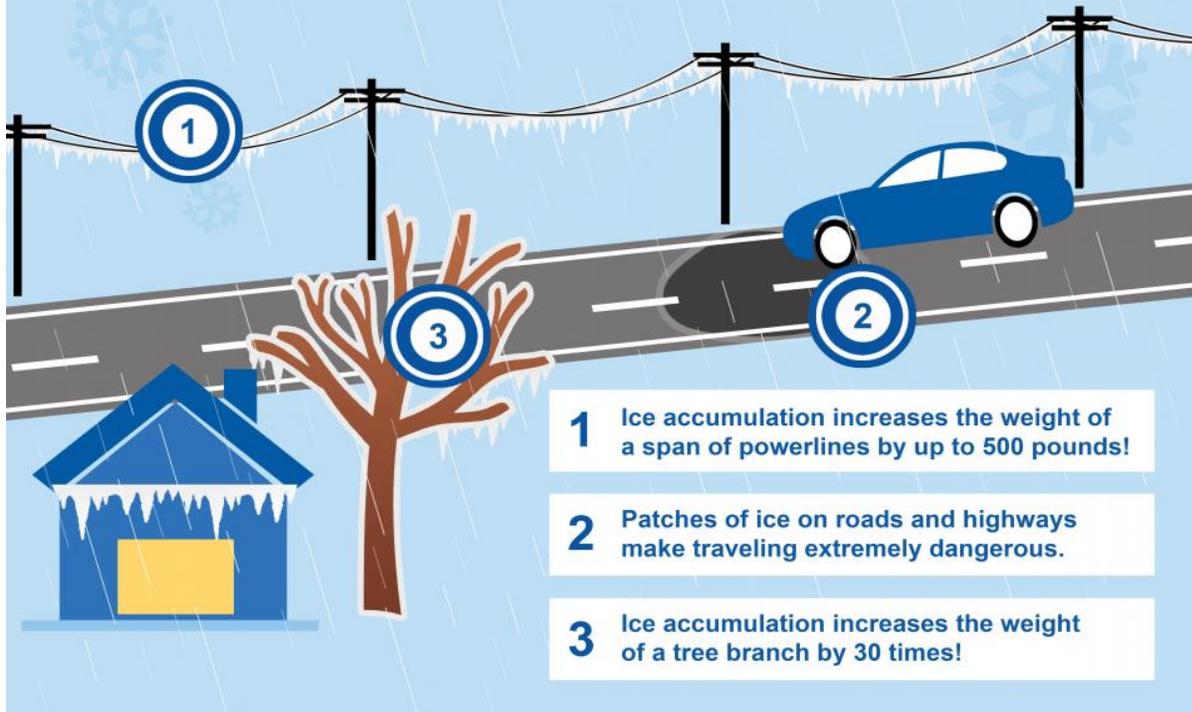


Understanding Winter Weather



What is FREEZING RAIN?

Freezing rain is liquid precipitation that freezes on contact with cold surfaces as it enters a shallow layer of temperatures at or below 32°F near the surface. This creates a dangerous coating of ice on roads, walkways, trees and power lines.



For more information on winter weather safety, visit: weather.gov/winter



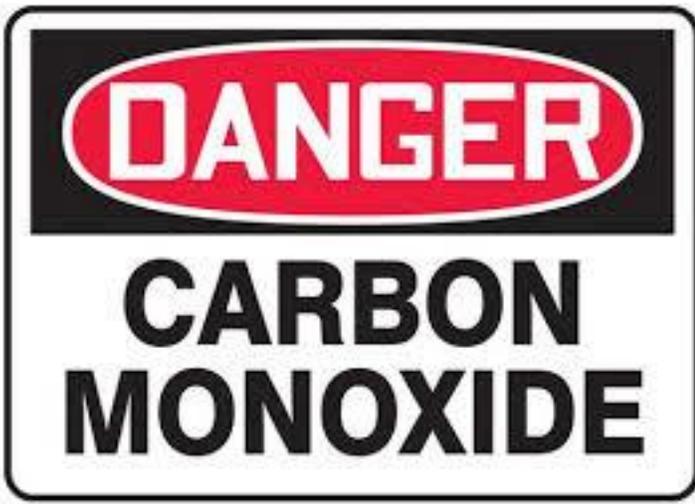
Wind Chill Chart



		Temperature (°F)																	
		40	35	30	25	20	15	10	5	0	-5	-10	-15	-20	-25	-30	-35	-40	-45
Wind (mph)	5	36	31	25	19	13	7	1	-5	-11	-16	-22	-28	-34	-40	-46	-52	-57	-63
	10	34	27	21	15	9	3	-4	-10	-16	-22	-28	-35	-41	-47	-53	-59	-66	-72
	15	32	25	19	13	6	0	-7	-13	-19	-26	-32	-39	-45	-51	-58	-64	-71	-77
	20	30	24	17	11	4	-2	-9	-15	-22	-29	-35	-42	-48	-55	-61	-68	-74	-81
	25	29	23	16	9	3	-4	-11	-17	-24	-31	-37	-44	-51	-58	-64	-71	-78	-84
	30	28	22	15	8	1	-5	-12	-19	-26	-33	-39	-46	-53	-60	-67	-73	-80	-87
	35	28	21	14	7	0	-7	-14	-21	-27	-34	-41	-48	-55	-62	-69	-76	-82	-89
	40	27	20	13	6	-1	-8	-15	-22	-29	-36	-43	-50	-57	-64	-71	-78	-84	-91
	45	26	19	12	5	-2	-9	-16	-23	-30	-37	-44	-51	-58	-65	-72	-79	-86	-93
	50	26	19	12	4	-3	-10	-17	-24	-31	-38	-45	-52	-60	-67	-74	-81	-88	-95
	55	25	18	11	4	-3	-11	-18	-25	-32	-39	-46	-54	-61	-68	-75	-82	-89	-97
60	25	17	10	3	-4	-11	-19	-26	-33	-40	-48	-55	-62	-69	-76	-84	-91	-98	

Frostbite Times: 30 minutes (light blue), 10 minutes (medium blue), 5 minutes (dark blue)

Wind Chill (°F) = 35.74 + 0.6215T - 35.75(V^{0.16}) + 0.4275T(V^{0.16})
 Where, T= Air Temperature (°F) V= Wind Speed (mph) Effective 11/01/01



Carbon Monoxide

During the colder months there is an increased risk of carbon monoxide (CO) poisoning. Fuel-burning equipment, including vehicles and generators running in an attached garage, can produce dangerous levels of CO and should be vented to the outside to avoid it from building up in your home. In a 2012 NFPA report, U.S. fire departments responded to an estimated 80,100 non-fire CO incidents in which carbon monoxide was found, or an average of nine such calls per hour in 2010. The number of incidents jumped 96 percent from 40,900 incidents reported in 2003. This surge, according to NFPA, is most likely due to the increased use of CO detectors, which alert people to the presence of CO.

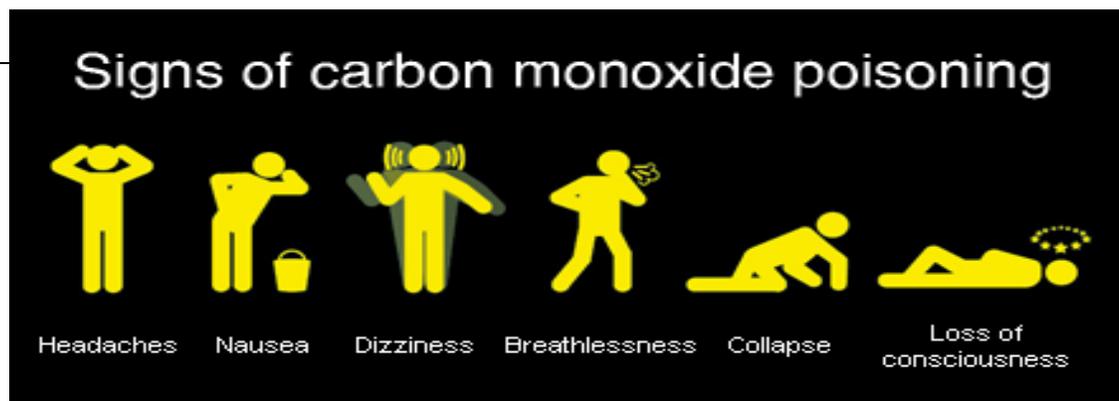
Some heating equipment requires proper installation to reduce the risk of fire injuries. When installing wood burning stoves or gas heaters, NFPA recommends following the manufacturer's instructions or having a professional perform the installation.

Installing and maintaining CO alarms can also help reduce the risk of carbon monoxide poisoning. If you smell gas in your gas heater or other appliance, do not light it. Leave the home immediately and call your local fire department or gas company.

To ensure a safe and cozy winter this year, NFPA offers some easy tips to follow:

- Use your oven to cook food only. Never use it to heat your home.
- Hire a qualified professional to clean and inspect heating equipment and chimneys every year.
- Turn portable heaters off when leaving the room or going to bed.
- Place a sturdy screen in front of your fireplace to prevent sparks from flying into the room, and burn only dry, seasoned wood. Allow ashes to cool before disposing them in a metal container, and ensure that they are kept a safe distance from the home.
- If you need to warm a vehicle, remove it from the garage immediately after starting it. Do not run a vehicle or other fueled engine or motor indoors, even if garage doors are open. Make sure the exhaust pipe of a running vehicle is not covered with snow.
- During and after a snowstorm make sure vents for the dryer, furnace, stove and fireplace are clear of snow build-up.
- Test smoke alarms and CO alarms monthly. Properly maintained alarms can save lives in the event of a fire

www.nfpa.org



Be Ready! Winter Weather

Weatherproof your home to protect against the cold.

- Install a smoke detector and carbon monoxide detector in your home.
- Have your chimney or flue inspected every year.
- Make sure the batteries are working!
- Insulate walls and attic.
- Caulk and weather-strip doors and windows.

Check out more tips on winter weather indoor safety.

Never leave lit candles or other flames unattended.

Bring your pets indoors as temperatures drop!

Prepare yourself for exposure to winter weather.

- Dress warmly and limit exposure to the cold to prevent frostbite.
- Avoid getting wet to prevent hypothermia.

If power lines are down, call your local utility and emergency services

If power lines fall on your car, warn people not to touch the car or power lines.

Make sure your car is ready for winter travel.

- Check antifreeze level and have radiator system serviced.
- Replace worn tires and check tire air pressure.
- Keep gas tank full to avoid ice in tank and fuel lines.
- Make a winter emergency kit to keep in your car.

www.cdc.gov/phpr/infographics.htm

Indoor Safety During Cold Weather



Place space heaters at least 3 feet from combustible items



Install and maintain carbon monoxide and smoke detectors



NEVER light a grill or wood burner in your home!



Make sure portable generators are properly ventilated



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National Weather Service – Lincoln, IL