

TIPS FOR WINTER STORM PREPAREDNESS



- Have at least one phone in the house that doesn't require electricity to operate. (a cordless phone, phone with built-in answering machine, cell phone chargers won't work without power!)
- Have a three-day supply of essential items (food, water, medications) in case you are unable to leave your home.
- Assemble a disaster supply kit (www.hcredcross.org/pdffiles/BeRedCrossReadyChecklist.pdf)
- Keep flammable items at least 3 feet away from all heat sources.
- Always use the proper fuel for space heaters.
- If using any burning heat source (i.e. gas, propane) be sure area is well-vented to avoid poisonous carbon monoxide buildup.
- Be sure to check propane/fuel oil levels in advance of storms to make sure your tank is filled.
- Turn portable heaters off when leaving the house or going to bed.
- Have extra blankets & warm clothing accessible (take with you if leave for emergency shelter).
- To report power outages, call Duke Energy at 800-769-3766. (Progress Energy: 800-419-6356)
- If must drive in snow/ice conditions, drive slowly & cautiously, especially while passing or stopping. Allow 3-4 times extra stopping distance on slick roads. Check travel advisories before driving (and don't drive if avoidable).
- If you skid, turn the steering wheel in the direction you want the front wheels to go. Ease off the accelerator. Avoid braking in a skid – tires can slide out of control with brake pressure.
- Keep a small snow shovel, blanket, ice scraper, flashlight, jumper cables, paper towels and a bag of sand or kitty litter in your vehicle.
- Underinflated tires can cause you to lose control at moderate speeds (cold temps may cause tire pressure to decrease).
- If you become stuck/stranded in your vehicle in the cold and wind: 1) use your cell phone to call for help; 2) unless safety is issue stay in your vehicle, run the engine about 10 minutes each hour for heat but keep a window open to avoid carbon monoxide poisoning (make sure the exhaust pipe is not blocked); 3) make yourself visible to rescuers by turning on the dome light at night when running engine and tie a colored cloth to your antenna or door.
- Go to www.hcredcross.org, scroll to the bottom of the home page and go through the on-line emergency preparedness program: “Be Red Cross Ready”. It could save a life!