Winter Storm Safety Tips

Before a Storm

☐ Ensure your home heating equipment is working and inspected.
  o Stock up on heating fuel and seasoned wood for your fireplace, if applicable.
☐ Winterize your vehicle (e.g., winter tires, adequate antifreeze levels, good windshield wipers and a windshield scraper).
☐ Fill your car’s gas tank.
☐ Power can be interrupted for long periods of time, so put together an emergency supply kit for your home that includes the following items:
  ☐ Snow shovels
  ☐ Rock salt
  ☐ Water: at least a three-day supply; 1 gallon per person per day
  ☐ Food: at least a three-day supply of nonperishable, easy-to-prepare foods, such as cereal or crackers, and canned goods
  ☐ Can opener
  ☐ Flashlights and extra batteries (count on the power being out for at least a day or two)
  ☐ Battery-powered or hand-crank radio
  ☐ First aid kit
  ☐ Medications (seven-day supply) and medical items (hearing aids with extra batteries, glasses, contact lenses, syringes, cane).
  ☐ Sanitation and personal hygiene items, including toilet paper
  ☐ Cellphone with charger
  ☐ Extra cash (remember that ATMs won’t work in a power outage)
  ☐ Blankets
  ☐ If needed, baby (bottles, formula, baby food, diapers) and pet supplies (collar, leash, ID, food, carrier, bowl)
  ☐ Extra car and house keys
  ☐ Extra clothing, hat and sturdy shoes
  ☐ If you have children, computer games will operate for only a limited amount of time. Consider board games, a deck of cards, arts and crafts supplies, and crayons.

During a Storm

☐ Stay indoors and drive only if necessary. If you drive, be sure to drive slowly and carefully, and avoid stopping.
☐ Use flashlights in the dark; avoid using candles.
☐ Know the signs of frostbite and hypothermia, and when to seek medical attention.
☐ When shoveling, bend at the knees to avoid strain on your back and take breaks to avoid overexertion.
☐ Bring pets inside.
Pay attention to local weather information found on sites such as the National Weather Service’s website.

If you lose power, consider conserving heating fuel by keeping your home slightly cooler than normal and temporarily closing off heat to some rooms.

If you have a backup generator, only position it outside your home.