

**SNOWSTORMS/
BLIZZARDS:
CAR
EMERGENCY
KITS**

Are You Ready?

Is a series of handouts designed to assist you and your family to plan ahead for emergencies.



For more information on Snowstorms/Blizzards: Car Emergency Kits Check out these Helpful websites:



Washington County
Emergency Services/
Emergency Management
33 W. Washington St.
Hagerstown, MD 21740
240-313-2930



www.fema.gov



www.redcross.org



www.hhs.gov



www.whitehouse.gov

Are You Ready?

WASHINGTON COUNTY
HEALTH DEPARTMENT



DECEMBER 2005

Winter Weather

Dangerous winter weather includes winter storms and blizzards. These can involve a combination of heavy snow, ice accumulation and dangerous wind chills.

Freezing Rain Advisory:

Minor accumulation of ice due to freezing rain is expected.



Winter Weather Advisory:

A Minor accumulation of snow, sleet and freezing rain is expected.

Snow Advisory:

Accumulations of one to four inches expected within a 12-hour period.



Blizzard Warning:

Strong winds, blinding driven snow and dangerous wind chill are expected in the next several hours.

Winter Storm Watch:

Significant accumulation of snow and/or ice is possible within 36 hours.



Winter Storm Warning:

A Storm with six or more inches of snow/sleet/freezing rain within a 24-hour period is expected.



Prepare an Emergency Car Kit

Include the following:

- ☞ Battery-powered radio and extra batteries
- ☞ Flashlight and extra batteries
- ☞ Blanket
- ☞ Booster cables
- ☞ Fire extinguisher (5lb., A-B-C type)
- ☞ First-aid kit and manual
- ☞ Bottled water and non-perishable high energy foods such as granola bars, raisins and peanut butter
- ☞ Maps
- ☞ Shovel
- ☞ Tire repair kit and pump
- ☞ Flares



***Be sure to add items for winter weather such as: hats, gloves, blankets, salt and sand.

Dress Warmly and Stay Dry

- ☞ Wear hats, scarves, layers and water-repellent coats. Wear mittens instead of gloves; they are warmer.
- ☞ Make sure small children- especially babies- stay warm, as infants can easily become hypothermic under conditions that would not necessarily be as dangerous for adults.



Cover Your Mouth:

Protect your lungs from extremely cold air by covering your mouth when outdoors.

Avoid Overexertion:

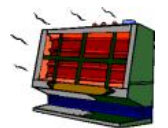
Take your time while shoveling snow or pushing a car. Stretch before you go out and drink plenty of non-alcoholic, non-caffeinated fluids.



Safe Heating

Many fires and emergencies are caused every year from unsafe heating.

- If you do not have heat, contact your building owner.
- Fuel-burning items (such as furnaces, boilers, hot water heaters and clothes dryers) should be working, ventilated and inspected by a professional regularly in order to prevent unintentional carbon monoxide poisoning.
- Electric heaters should be used with extreme caution to prevent shock, fire and burns.
- Materials near heaters should be kept at least three feet from the heat source to prevent fire.
- Gas ovens and burners should never be used to heat your home.



Car Safety

Be sure to clear snow from your tail pipe before you start your car to prevent carbon monoxide poisoning.

