



## Before Winter Storms and Extreme Cold

### Add the following supplies to your disaster supplies kit:

- **Rock salt** to melt ice on walkways
- **Sand** to improve traction
- **Snow shovels** and other snow removal equipment.

### Prepare your home and family

- **Prepare for possible isolation in your home** by having sufficient heating fuel; regular fuel sources may be cut off. For example, store a good supply of dry, seasoned wood for your fireplace or wood-burning stove.
- **Winterize your home** to extend the life of your fuel supply by insulating walls and attics, caulking and weather-stripping doors and windows, and installing storm windows or covering windows with plastic.
- **Winterize your house, barn, shed or any other structure that may provide shelter** for your family, neighbors, livestock or equipment. Clear rain gutters; repair roof leaks and cut away tree branches that could fall on a house or other structure during a storm.
- **Insulate pipes** with insulation or newspapers and plastic and allow faucets to drip a little during cold weather to avoid freezing.
- **Keep fire extinguishers on hand**, and make sure everyone in your house knows how to use them. House fires pose an additional risk, as more people turn to alternate heating sources without taking the necessary safety precautions.
- **Learn how to shut off water valves** (in case a pipe bursts).
- **Know ahead of time what you should do to help elderly or disabled friends, neighbors or employees.**
- **Hire a contractor to check the structural ability of the roof** to sustain unusually heavy weight from the accumulation of snow - or water, if drains on flat roofs do not work.

### Prepare your car

- **Check or have a mechanic check the following items on your car:**
  - **Antifreeze levels** - ensure they are sufficient to avoid freezing.
  - **Battery and ignition system** - should be in top condition and battery terminals should be clean.
  - **Brakes** - check for wear and fluid levels.
  - **Exhaust system** - check for leaks and crimped pipes and repair or replace as necessary. *Carbon monoxide is deadly and usually gives no warning.*
  - **Fuel and air filters** - replace and keep water out of the system by using additives and maintaining a full tank of gas.
  - **Heater and defroster** - ensure they work properly.
  - **Lights and flashing hazard lights** - check for serviceability.
  - **Oil** - check for level and weight. Heavier oils congeal more at low temperatures and do not lubricate as well.