

WINTER STORMS ARE YOU PREPARED?

The snowfall in January caught Clark County, La Center, and weather forecasters by surprise. The storm created difficult driving conditions and presented a challenge for the area. City departments and crews have contingency plans to deal with the unusual conditions, and we urge La Center residents to do the same. Planning is necessary to assure safety in your vehicle, and at home for you, your family and your pets.

While snow covered look at, and building in the snow is fun, winter deceptively dangerous. following safety tips to prepare for future frigid

Important Phone Numbers

9-1-1 for life threatening emergencies
(360) 992-8000 for downed power lines or power outage
(360) 263-7665 to report dangerous road conditions in the City of La Center

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Ice and Snow on Roadways

La Center Public Works crews place anti-icing material on the roads when the threat of freezing appears imminent. Crews plow snow and slush from city streets and use sanding gravels on hills and intersections. Citizens can call the Public Works office to report hazardous conditions.

Motorists should use caution while driving in snow and ice, and carry tire chains. La Center is hilly, and vehicles can lose traction and get stuck — even on flat surface areas. Stranded motorist should remain with their vehicles if possible. Cars should be moved to the side of the road for safety and for the operation of road equipment. Keep a winter survival kit in your vehicle. This should include blankets, food, water, flares, chains, gloves, extra warm clothing, and first aid supplies.

What to do When a Winter Storm Warning is Issued

- * Stay indoors during the storm.
- * If you are outside, wear several layers of lightweight clothing. Layering items will keep you warmer.
- * Most of your body heat is lost through your head, so wear a hat.
- * Mittens and gloves prevent the loss of body heat, but mittens are warmer and a good choice for children.
- * Wear waterproof, insulated boots to help avoid hypothermia or frostbite by keeping your feet warm and dry.
- * Get out of wet clothes immediately, and warm the core body temperature with a blanket and warm fluids.

Learn to recognize the symptoms of **hypothermia**: confusion, dizziness, exhaustion and severe shivering. Seek medical assistance immediately if you have these symptoms.

Assemble an emergency kit for your home. It should include a transistor radio and batteries, water, and non-perishable food. Have an adequate supply of blankets in your home for extended power outages. Avoid opening and closing refrigerators and freezers more often than necessary. Food in a cold refrigerator will stay cold for about 12 hours.

Protect Your Pipes from Freezing Temperatures Before the Cold Hits

- * Insulate pipes in your home's crawl space and attic. These exposed pipes are most susceptible to freezing.
- * Seal leaks that allow cold air inside, near where pipes are located. Look for air leaks around electrical wiring, dryer



vents and pipes. Use caulk or insulation to keep the cold out and the heat in. With severe cold, a tiny opening can let in enough cold air to cause a pipe to freeze.

- * Disconnect garden hoses and drain water from pipes leading to outside faucets.
- * A trickle of hot and cold water from an interior faucet may keep pipes located on exterior walls from freezing.

If Your Pipes Freeze

- * Do not take chances. If you turn on your faucets and nothing comes out, leave the faucets turned on and call a plumber. If your water pipes have burst, turn off the water at the main shut-off valve in your residence; leave the water faucets turned on.
- * Never try to thaw a pipe with a torch or other open flame. You may be able to thaw a pipe with the warm air from a hair dryer. Start by warming the pipe as close to the faucet as possible, working toward the coldest section of pipe.
- * Do not use electrical appliances in areas of standing water because you could be electrocuted.

Downed Power Lines

Report any downed power lines immediately and do not go near them. Assume any downed wire is a live wire and extremely dangerous. Call (360) 263-7665 if the power goes out or you see lines down.

Use generators outside of your house and garage. It is important to operate the generator in an area away from any building to allow exhaust fumes to be released away from any residence. **Never** use portable propane or charcoal barbecues in an enclosed area. Both generators and barbecues can lead to the build up of dangerous carbon monoxide levels, and require adequate ventilation. Have extra flashlights, electric lanterns and batteries on hand. Use caution with candles inside, and never leave one burning unattended. Remember that children and pets can knock over candles, so they should be placed out of their reach. It is wise to have a fire extinguisher located in your home.



Don't Forget Your Furry Friends



Winter weather poses special risks to pets. Pet owners should take extra precautions to prevent a tragedy.

- * Dogs and cats can get frostbitten ears, noses and feet if left outside. Bring pets indoors during cold weather.
- * Pets love the taste of antifreeze and even a small amount can kill them. Clean up spills and be aware of anti-freeze on parking areas. Be sure that containers are stored properly.
- * If your dog must be outside for a period of time, provide an elevated doghouse with clean dry bedding. Consider installing a pet door on your garage so that your pet can seek protection. Check water bowls often to assure plenty of water, and avoid metal bowls in the cold weather.
- * It is important to check the paws and pads of your pet's feet in cold weather. Remember — chemicals used to melt snow and ice can burn your pet.
- * Never leave your pet alone in the car in cold weather. It gets too cold and can lead to hypothermia and possibly death.
- * Be careful of fireplaces and portable heaters; keep fireplaces screened and heaters out of reach as a pet may chew a cord or knock over a heater

With a little extra precaution, winter storms can be safe for every member of the family.