

Public Information Statement
National Weather Service Albany NY
800 AM EDT Mon Oct 28 2024

...October 27 To November 2 is Winter Weather Awareness Week in New York and New England...

Preparation is the key to reducing the effects of severe winter weather.

Prepare for possible power outages during winter storms from wet snow, wind or ice. Destructive ice storms, such as the February 3-4, 2022 storm and the March 22-23, 2024 storm, can bring down trees and power lines leaving communities without power for days. Wet snow and wind, such as during the storms of April 2022 and March 2023 can also bring down trees and power lines.

If possible, have emergency heating equipment or a generator available to keep at least one room warm. Do not run generators indoors or in attached garages. Make sure any alternative heating sources such as a fireplace or kerosene heater are well ventilated to avoid carbon monoxide poisoning. Keep an adequate supply of fuel.

If you use an electric space heater during cold weather, do not overload the circuit. Use extension cords which have the necessary rating to carry the electrical load. If your pipes freeze, thaw them with hot air from a hair dryer. Do not use a torch. Make sure the furnace exhaust is not blocked by deep snow.

If you need information on paying for energy to stay warm in your home this winter, visit your state energy assistance program website.

Dress warmly for the cold weather. Several layers of loose fitting clothing are better than one tight fitting garment. Mittens are warmer than gloves. Wear a hat since your body's greatest heat loss occurs from your head. Wind chill, the combination of cold temperatures and wind, increases the danger of frostbite or hypothermia. If you suspect hypothermia, a person must be rewarmed and should be seen by a doctor.

If your children walk to school, have them carry a backpack for books and papers. If possible, select outer garments with reflective markings. Check for winter weather related school cancellations or delays.

Be especially cautious when venturing out onto an ice covered body of water. An ice thickness of at least four inches is recommended to support a person. Snowmobiles and ATVs need at least six inches of ice, while cars and light trucks require at least eight to 12 inches. Factors which can be used to assess the strength of the ice include the ice appearance, ice thickness, daily average temperature, snow cover and distribution of the load on the ice.

NOAA Weather Radio offers one way to receive immediate relay of any winter weather warnings. Many local television and radio stations also broadcast weather alerts. Computers and wireless devices can also receive warnings. The Red Cross, FEMA, state and local emergency management agencies and TV stations have wireless applications that will alert you of threatening weather by relaying National Weather Service warnings.

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