A Preparedness Resource from The Cuyahoga County Office of Emergency Management

At-A-Glance

Winter Storms & Extreme Cold

Winter Storm Watch: There is a possibility of a storm occurring.

Winter Storm Warning: A storm is already taking place or is expected.

Blizzard Warning - Sustained winds or frequent gusts to 35 miles per hour or greater and considerable amounts of falling or blowing snow (reducing visibility to less than a quarter mile) are expected to prevail for a period of three hours or longer.

Before a winter storm or extreme cold…

- Listen to a NOAA Weather Radio or other local news broadcasts for critical information from the National Weather Service (NWS)
- Winterize your home to preserve heat and extend the life of your fuel supply by insulating walls and attics; clear rain gutters; repair roof leaks and cut away tree branches that could fall on a house or other structure during a storm
- Maintain heating equipment and chimneys by having them cleaned and inspected every year
- Insulate pipes with insulation or newspapers and plastic and allow faucets to drip a little during cold weather to avoid freezing
- Keep vents clear
- Keep fire extinguishers on hand, and make sure everyone in your house knows how to use them

During a blizzard:

- To avoid hypothermia, stay hydrated, nourished, and keep your blood flowing
- Avoid overexertion when shoveling snow; overexertion can bring on a heart attack

Did you know?

The worst winter storm in Ohio history struck on Thursday, January 26, 1978. Bitterly cold temperatures and winds up to 70 mph closed transportation, business, industry, and schools statewide for two days. Fifty-one Ohioans died as a result of the storm.

For additional information on blizzards, go to www.ready.gov.

Sources: Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)

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Every Person. Every Emergency.