



Suggested Winter Storm Safety Rules:

Before the Storm:

Keep ahead of a winter storm by listening to the latest National Weather Service Warnings and bulletins on radio and television. Consider signing up for a weather alert app for your smartphone.

Plan ahead of the storm. During the winter months, stock up on non-perishable foods that may be served without refrigeration or heating, in case the power goes out.

During winter months, make sure that you have at least 10 to 14 additional days worth of medication. Once a winter storm hits, the possibility of getting additional medication is difficult, and to request this during hazardous driving conditions puts the person that you ask for assistance at risk.

Determine if you are going to stay put or if you will be staying with a friend or relative. Let your friends and/or relatives know where you are going to be.

Make sure you have an alternate heat source. Be safe with alternate heating sources. Do not substitute fuels. Make sure wicks are trimmed and burn blue. Any yellow means Carbon Monoxide. Make sure chimneys are clean and joints are tight; a chimney fire can cause a house fire. **DO NOT USE CHARCOAL, LP GAS, OR SIMILAR COOKING/HEATING STOVES INDOORS.** They create huge amounts of Carbon Monoxide. Do not use any flame in a room with the windows shut because Carbon Monoxide will build up. Ventilate the house if you use a flame or a kerosene heater. Do not let a flame burn while you are asleep. Install a Carbon Monoxide monitor. Have heating systems and chimneys inspected annually. Check your supply of heating fuel. Fuel carriers may not be able to move if a winter storm buries your area in snow or the roads and streets are covered with ice.

Check battery powered equipment before the storm arrives. A portable radio or television set may be your only contact with the outside world during the winter storm. Also check emergency cooking facilities and flashlights.

Make sure you have a telephone plugged into a telephone jack. Cordless phones are nice, but do not work when the power is off.

If you must receive medical treatment, such as dialysis, pre-arrange your transportation. If you live far away from the treatment center or in the County, get close to the treatment facility. Stay in a hotel or with a friend. Ask a friend or relative to take you. Or if possible, call the medical facility office and try to reschedule your appointment for the next day or later, once it is evident that the roads will be clear.

During Winter Storms:

Stay indoors during storms and cold snaps unless you are in peak physical condition. If you must go out, avoid overexertion. If you must spend time outdoors, wear loose-fitting, lightweight, warm clothing in several layers. Outer layers of clothing can be removed to prevent perspiring and subsequent chill. Outer garments should be lightly woven, water repellent, and hooded.

Do not kill yourself shoveling snow. It is extremely hard work for anyone in less than prime physical condition, and can bring on a heart attack, a major cause of death during and after winter storms.

Stay reasonably warm. During winter storms - peak utilities usage - set your thermostat to 68 degrees F. If your utilities go off, wear several layers of clothing plus a hat. Eat and drink to fuel your body. Do not drink alcohol.



Call your relatives, especially your out-of-town children. Tell them how you are and where you are. They may worry about you if they cannot find you. Also, check on your neighbors! See if they are okay.

If your power goes out, more than likely, Huntsville Utilities already knows. If you call Huntsville Utilities to report power outages, please do so only once. Multiple requests do not speed up the process. They work as fast as they can.

If you have a true medical emergency, call 911. To inquire about available non emergency community resources, dial 211.

Do not call 911 unless you have a true emergency. Do not call them for general information such as road closing information, for transportation, or to ask which stores are opened. Tune into local television stations or local radio stations for information. The Emergency Management Agency distributes emergency public information to the media as soon as possible.

Do not drive on icy or treacherous roads. While 4-wheel drive vehicles may enable you to drive in all terrains, our major concern is your ability to stop! During hazardous or icy driving conditions, our police officers are terribly overwhelmed, and it may take several hours or more for them to come to your assistance.

Please do not call public works to clear your street. They have a specific plan in place for road clearing. They clear roads around hospitals first, so that emergency medical crews can deliver persons with life-threatening emergencies, then major roads, and then minor roads.