



ARE YOU READY for a **snow** storm?



Another Minnesota winter is just around the corner, bringing with it the threat of serious snowstorms and dangerous conditions for you and your family. Following simple safety precautions can make the next snowfall seem more like a Winter Wonderland and less like the Abominable Snowman.

ARE YOU READY?

—Plan—Prepare—Practice—Stay Informed—

Plan. Create a plan for actions in a winter emergency.

- Know the language weather stations use to describe winter weather conditions, and know what to do in response
 - *Winter Storm Watch*: Be alert for changing conditions; a storm may be on its way.
 - *Winter Weather Advisory*: conditions may be hazardous especially to motorists.
 - *Winter Storm Warning*: Take action—a storm is in the area.
 - *Blizzard Warning*: Snow and strong winds combined, dangerous wind chill, drifting and blinding snow—find shelter immediately.

Prepare. Have a winter storm kit prepared for emergency situations.

- Include such things as a **first aid kit, NOAA Weather radio, batteries, flashlight, lightweight foods, bottled water, and warm clothing (hats, mittens, boots).**
- Make a kit for your car as well.

Practice. Act responsibly and sensibly in winter storm situations.

- Don't drive in snow storms unless absolutely necessary.
- Walk carefully and slowly on icy sidewalks to prevent dangerous injury in cold weather.
- Wear many layers of clothing when outside in cold weather—this will keep the body warmer than simply wearing one large coat. Remember to keep the head warm and also the mouth, in order to warm the air going to the lungs.

Stay Informed. Check these websites for more information on winter weather.

- ✓ Minnesota Public Safety Homeland Security Emergency Management at <http://www.hsem.state.mn.us/>
- ✓ FEMA Homeland Security at http://www.fema.gov/hazard/winter/wi_during.shtm
- ✓ American Red Cross at http://www.redcross.org/services/disaster/0,1082,0_595_00.html