

Winter Preparedness

Make a Kit, Make a Plan, Stay Informed:

- Have supplies to survive on your own for at least 3 days. Supply items should include at least the following
- For winter weather updates, situational awareness, warming center/shelter information, and updates on closings, delays, and parking bans, visit RIEMA's website at www.riema.ri.gov and follow us on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.
- Stay up to date with current state road conditions by visiting the Department of Transportation's website at www.dot.ri.gov and follow them on Facebook and Twitter.
 - Hazardous road conditions
- Stay connected with National Grid, report downed power lines and power outages
- Check on neighbors, elderly, and those with functional needs. Check on friends, family, & neighbors to make sure that they are prepared for the cold.

Winter Vehicle Preparedness:

- Make an emergency supply kit for your vehicle, in addition to the emergency supply kit for your home. Include a shovel, jumper cables, and a bag of sand
- Plan long trips carefully, listening to the latest weather reports and road conditions
- Travel during the day, and if possible, try to take someone along with you
- Keep your gas tank full
- Install good winter tires with adequate tread
- Check your windshield wiper fluid

Heat Safety

- Use proper safety precautions when using alternate heating sources, such as unattended fires and space heaters
- Using a generator indoors could kill you in minutes as generator exhaust contains carbon monoxide. Carbon monoxide is odorless and colorless.

- Never run a generator, inside your home or other enclosed structure, even if the doors or windows are open. Only use outside and far away from windows, doors and vents.
- Never run a motor vehicle, generator, pressure washer, or any gasoline-powered engine less than 20 feet from an open window, door, or vent where exhaust can vent into an enclosed area.
- Place space heaters at least three feet away from anything combustible (i.e. wallpaper, bedding, clothing, etc.)
- Never leave space heaters operating when you are not in the room or when you go to bed. Do not leave children unattended near space heaters.
- Refrain from drying wet clothing over a space heater.

Extreme Cold Preparedness:

- Have sufficient heating supplies. If you need emergency heating, contact local municipalities or dial 2-1-1
- Limit exposure of bare skin to the cold. Dress in layers in order to retain heat.
- Get out of wet clothes immediately and warm the core body temperature with a blanket.
- Symptoms of hypothermia: confusion, dizziness, exhaustion and severe shivering. Seek medical attention immediately if you have these symptoms.
- Children, elderly, and those with functional needs especially vulnerable to cold. Check on friends, family, & neighbors to make sure that they are prepared for the cold.
- Pets get cold too. Keep pets inside and limit their exposure to the extreme cold.