

Winter Storm Preparedness in Eastern North Carolina

Snow, sleet, and freezing rain are possible in all of North Carolina, and they always bring great inconveniences—Prepare in advance.

Stores and schools will close during winter storms. **Plan ahead.**

- Before the storm begins, buy groceries, fuel for portable heating and cooking appliances, and gas for your car. Refill any important medicines.

Electric power may fail, especially if the storm is accompanied by freezing rain. Your home heating may fail during freezing weather.

- A portable kerosene heater can provide safe heating. Kerosene heaters are available in hardware stores at prices starting around \$120.
- When you use a kerosene heater, ***always keep windows slightly open.***
- **NEVER** refill the heater indoors.

Portable gas camp stoves can be used for cooking if your electricity goes off. Camp stoves are available in department stores for prices starting at around \$30. People are killed every winter because they do not realize the dangers of carbon monoxide poisoning, so remember:

- **NEVER** use a camp stove indoors. Do your cooking outside.
- **NEVER** use a charcoal or gas grill indoors, either for cooking or for heating.

Many places of business will not be open during and perhaps for some time after a winter storm. Workers should know that they may face a period of work stoppage.

If your home's drinking water comes from a well, plan for **no running water** during a power outage. Buy bottled water to last at least three days before the storm begins—at least one gallon per person per day.

Before a long period of severe weather, you should get some cash. Banks may be hard to get to and ATMs may not work during and after a storm.

Fill your vehicle's gas tank. Keep a portable radio and a supply of batteries in your house.

Definitions of Important Bulletins Commonly Issued by the National Weather Service for Eastern North Carolina

REMEMBER!

A **watch** means that conditions favor possible development of severe weather. Remain alert. Monitor local media. ***Prepare.***

A **warning** means that severe weather is already occurring or is imminent. Take immediate action to ensure your safety

Winter Storm Watch: Alerts the public to the possibility of heavy snow, sleet, or freezing rain. *Usually* issued 12 to 48 hours before the beginning of a winter storm. Travel may become hazardous or impossible once the storm begins. Monitor local media for weather information. Consider buying needed provisions ahead of the storm.

Winter Storm Warning: Issued when heavy snow, sleet, or freezing rain is imminent or occurring. *Usually* issued 12 to 24 hours before the beginning of a winter storm. Travel will quickly become hazardous or impossible once the storm begins. Stores may close. Buy needed provisions without delay.

Winter Weather Advisory: Winter weather conditions are expected to cause significant inconveniences that may become hazardous. Advisory situations are not normally life-threatening if caution is exercised.

The government's Weather Radio network broadcasts weather information 24 hours a day. These broadcasts are found on special frequencies, and you must buy a Weather Radio receiver to hear them.

Weather Radios are available in stores at prices starting around \$30. Weather Radios can give you the latest weather forecast at the touch of a button, or they can stand silent until an emergency bulletin is issued. Bulletins cause the radio to sound a "wake up" alarm, alerting you that there is an important message.

For more information, see Fact Sheet "Why You Need A Weather Radio."