

Cold Weather Conditions

Well once again the weather has dipped well below freezing. Here are some helpful hints to keep in mind through these cold winter days.

House:

- Have enough blankets
- Make sure you have a good supply of batteries
- Have flashlights available
- A battery operated portable radio
- Water/ snack foods
- Insulate pipes that may be exposed to the cold weather
- Close water shut-offs to outside faucets
- When possible open up kitchen and vanity doors to help warm air circulate
- Keep space heaters 3 feet away from any combustibles
- Keep fuel burning appliances vented to the outside
- Have working Carbon Monoxide Detector (only one is needed)
- Have working Smoke Detectors in place and working (minimally one on each floor, one inside each bedroom is now required)



This pipe was exposed to single digit temperatures and burst within 20 minutes of exposure. Water damage doesn't always occur when the pipe splits, but, rather when the pipe thaws out. Many times people think that they are out of the danger of bursting pipes after a cold night, however, it may be a few days later when the flooding occurs.

Vehicle:

One thing that should never be overlooked is the importance of having an emergency kit inside your vehicle. This kit should contain:

- A shovel
- Windshield scraper
- Flashlight
- Battery powered radio
- Extra batteries
- Water
- Snacks
- Matches
- Extra hat, socks, mittens
- First aid kit with pocket knife
- Medications
- Blankets
- Tow chain or rope
- Road salt or sand
- Booster cables
- Flares/distress flags
- Portable walkie talkie. (they are now affordable and you may be able to contact someone if you are in trouble)

This sounds like a lot to keep in your car, especially in some of the new compact cars. However, if stuck or stranded these items can make a big difference in cold weather survival. Keep your fuel tanks full and have good tires for traction.

Pets:

- Keep your outside pets raised off the ground and have plenty of cover or blankets inside the structure.
- If straw is kept inside the structure, make sure that it is not exposed to anything that can cause a fire (ie Lights)
- Keep cats inside, felines are more susceptible to freezing
- Make provisions for animals to be kept indoors during the bitter cold
- Animals that work in the cold should be fed more protein
- Make sure animals stay away from coolants or antifreeze.
- Never keep an animal in your car unattended or unheated
- Thoroughly dry your animals when they come in. Wipe down their bellies and paws. Watch for salt and chemicals in their paws.

Remember that your pets depend on you and remember your responsibilities to you pets.