SAFETY TALKS:
Cold Weather Safety Tips

PREPARATION TIPS
• Have more than one way to get information in an emergency, including a source like a hand-powered NOAA Weather Radio that still works if you temporarily lose electricity during a storm. Other include television, radio, online news sources and smartphone apps like the American Red Cross’ all-inclusive Emergency App for Apple and Android.
• Know the snow routes in your area.
• Be prepared to shelter-in-place.
• Items for winter storms to add to your disaster kit include additional non-perishable food and water for one or two weeks, extra blankets, coats, gloves, winter hats, and water-resistant boots.
• Put a disaster supply kit in your vehicle that includes blankets.
• Keep your pets safe.
• Keep your cellphone charged.
• Open cabinet doors below sinks and let faucets drip if temperatures remain below freezing for a day or more.
• Make sure elderly family members, friends and neighbors are prepared for the storm, and check on them during and after the storm.
• Get extra medication, oxygen or other medical supplies if it’s possible you’ll need a refill before the storm’s effects are over.

DRIVING SAFETY TIPS
• Use extra caution when driving over bridges and overpasses.
• Turn off your automatic sprinkler systems.
• Remember that posted speed limits are only to be followed during ideal weather conditions. Slow down while driving on snow or ice.
• Give salt trucks plenty of room – stay at least 100 feet behind them so salt won’t get thrown on your car.
• Plan ahead by getting up and leaving the house earlier.
• Keep at least a three-car distance from the car in front of you
• Steer and brake more slowly than usual.
• Keep warm shoes and clothes in your car.
• Clear all snow and ice from your vehicle before setting out.
• Proceed carefully through intersections.
• Have a plan if you slide off the road – who are you going to call?

SAFELY USE ALTERNATIVE HEATING SOURCES
• Make sure working smoke and carbon monoxide alarms are properly installed in your home.
• Give space heaters their space. Keep combustible material at least three feet away from the heater.
• Keep all combustible materials off of floor furnaces.
• Remove any combustibles from central heater closets.
• Use an approved metal or glass screen in front of fireplaces to prevent embers from flying out of the fireplace.
• Remember to open the damper before lighting the fireplace.

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