

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT MONTHLY

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Winter Storm Safety

Terms to Know

- **Winter Storm Warning** - Confidence is high that a winter storm will produce heavy snow, sleet, or freezing rain and cause significant impacts to travel.
- **Blizzard Warning** - Sustained winds or frequent gusts to 35 mph or greater with large amounts of falling/blowing snow (reducing visibility to less than a quarter mile) for a period of three hours or longer.
- **Winter Weather Advisory** - Exercise caution. Light amounts of wintry precipitation or patchy blowing snow will cause slick conditions and could affect travel if precautions are not taken.
- **Winter Storm Watch** - A winter storm is possible in your area.

One of the major concerns during winter weather is its ability to knock out heat, power and communications services to your home, sometimes for days at a time.

Before winter approaches, add the following supplies to your home emergency kit: rock salt or environmentally safe products to melt ice on walkways. Snow shovels and other snow removal equipment. Order heating fuel to be ready for winter's colder temperatures. You may become isolated in your home and delivery of regular fuel sources may be delayed or cut off for a period.

During the storm: Stay indoors during the storm. Walk carefully on snowy, icy, walkways. Avoid overexertion when shoveling snow. Overexertion can bring on a heart attack—a major cause of death in the winter. Use caution, take breaks, push the snow instead of lifting it when possible, and lift lighter loads. Keep dry. Change wet clothing frequently to prevent a loss of body heat. Wet clothing loses all of its insulating value and transmits heat rapidly. Don't forget your pet(s), and bring them indoors.

When traveling: Drive only if it is absolutely necessary. If you must drive travel in the day; don't travel alone; keep others informed of your schedule; stay on main roads and avoid back road shortcuts. Include a cell phone charger, first aid kit, jumper cables, flashlight and don't forget to check your spare tire. Ensure you have winterized your car so you can depend on it for sub-zero morning start ups. Sand or kitty litter can help during low traction situations. Keep your car fueled to 3/4 tank or full to prevent lines from freezing. Don't forget to take snacks and water with you on your trip. Always check the weather forecast prior to traveling, you never know when you will encounter winter weather or an emergency road closure. Slow down! Even if the roads just look wet they could still be slick. More than 6,000 fatalities occur on the roadways each year due to weather conditions.

After the storm: Restock your emergency supplies to be ready in case another storm hits. Assess how well your supplies and family plan worked. What could you have done better? Take a few minutes to improve your family plan and supplies before the next winter storm hits. Talk to your neighbors and colleagues about their experiences and share tips with each other.

For base information concerning winter weather, view the MDL Inclement Weather guide at the link on the [JB MDL home page](#) or visit the National Weather Service at: <http://www.nws.noaa.gov/om/brochures/wnttrstm.htm>

Winter weather vehicle kit:

- Cell phone with charged battery and 12 volt charging cord for the car.
- Extra winter blankets, gloves, hats, and clothes.
- A snow shovel and rock salt / kitty litter for traction.
- Store a flashlight with extra batteries.
- A first aid kit with a brightly colored flag.
- Bottled water and non perishable food.

Important Information:

Tune to 1650 AM for latest weather information in the Joint Base area.

Call 609-754-BASE (McGuire/Dix)
Or
732-323-SNOW (Lakehurst) for base impacts due to weather.
Or
JB MDL Facebook Page

JB MDL Office of Emergency Management (OEM)

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