



## West Virginia Offices of the Insurance Commissioner

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### *Preparing for Winter Weather*

*December 21, 2020*

- With winter approaching, be sure to look through your emergency kit and add supplies specific to winter, such as:
  - ❖ Rock salt or more environmentally safe products to melt ice on walkways. (Remember that these products can be harmful to dogs, so be sure to choose a non-toxic brand if you or your neighbors have pets.)
  - ❖ Sand/gravel to improve traction.
  - ❖ Snow shovels or other snow removal equipment.
  - ❖ Heating fuel. If you have a fireplace or wood-burning stove, keep a supply of good, dry wood for heating in case you lose power.
  - ❖ Adequate clothing and blankets to keep warm, including coats, sweaters, hats, gloves, mittens, scarves, etc.
  - ❖ Keep your [NOAA Weather Radio](#) in your kit to receive broadcast alerts and warnings directly from the NWS for all hazards. You may also sign up in advance to receive notifications from your local emergency services.
- Make a [Family Communications Plan](#). Your family may not be together when disaster strikes, so it is important to know how you will contact one another, how you will get back together, and what you will do in case of an emergency.
- Before the storm hits, download free smartphone apps, such as those available from [FEMA](#) and the [American Red Cross](#), which provide information about finding shelters, providing first aid and seeking assistance for recovery.
- Be prepared to bring your pets/animals inside in the event of a winter storm. Move animals and livestock to a sheltered area with non-frozen drinking water.

For more information about weather preparedness, please visit our website at:

<https://www.wvinsurance.gov/State-Office-of-the-National-Flood-Insurance-Program>

or contact us at: [OICFlood@wv.gov](mailto:OICFlood@wv.gov) or 304-414-8462.

[www.wvinsurance.gov](http://www.wvinsurance.gov)