



Winter Emergency Preparedness

Winter is upon us, and it is important to be ready for any storms by knowing all your options.

MAKE SURE YOU UNDERSTAND WINTER STORM TERMINOLOGY!

- **Winter Storm Watch** - Be alert, a storm is likely.
- **Winter Storm Warning** - Take action, the storm is in or entering the area.
- **Winter Weather Advisory** - Winter weather conditions are expected to cause significant inconveniences and may be hazardous, especially to motorists.
- **Blizzard Warning** - Snow and strong winds combined will produce blinding snow, near zero visibility, deep drifts, and life-threatening wind chill. Seek refuge immediately.



BCREPC [Barnstable County Regional Emergency Planning Committee website](#) has much valuable information on preparing yourself and your pets for an emergency, as well as information about sheltering in place and local shelters.

When a storm is threatening, you can also find out the latest status of shelters, transportation, and other local emergency information by listening to WQRC radio (99.9) or by calling the Senior Center (508-539-1440). For emergency transportation, call the CCRTA at (800) 352-7155.

For your smartphone, there is a great app called [Massachusetts Alerts](#) which provides emergency notifications and public safety information based on your location, proximity to an event or incident, and the preferences you select. You can download this app from the Apple App Store, Google PlayStore, or Android Market. You will receive real-time information, including:



- Severe weather watches and warnings (users set their own preferences)
- Amber alerts about missing children
- Critical information during disasters, such as evacuation and shelter-in-place information
- Shelter information
- Information about power outages
- Tips to prepare for, and stay safe during disasters and public safety incidents

A good place to start is by assembling an emergency kit:

SUGGESTED ALL-HAZARDS EMERGENCY KIT

- Bottled water (1 gallon per person/per day for 3 days)

- Canned goods and nonperishable foods, particularly those that do not need cooking:
- Canned meats, fish, fruits, vegetables, soups etc...
- Canned fruit juices
- Dried fruit and nuts
- Bread, cookies and crackers
- Peanut butter and jelly
- Coffee and tea
- Manual can opener
- Radio (battery-powered or hand crank), NOAA Weather Radio and extra batteries
- Flashlight or lantern, with extra batteries
- First aid kit
- Pet food, supplies, tag, crates, if needed
- Prescription medications (2-week supply)
- Extra eyeglasses, contact lenses, and dentures
- Extra batteries for hearing aids, wheelchairs, or other medical equipment,
- Medical oxygen tanks
- Whistle to signal for help
- Moist towelettes, garbage bags, soap, sanitizer, and other personal hygiene items
- Wrench or pliers to turn off utilities
- Copies of important documents and IDs
- Cell phone and charger (also an auto, solar, or crank charger in case power is out)
- Cash
- Water purification tablets and household chlorine bleach
- Camp stove or grill (outdoor use only) with fuel or Sterno and waterproof matches or lighter
- Change of clothes and sturdy shoes
- Sleeping bags or blankets
- Disposable plates, cups, and utensils
- Seasonal items such as warm clothes, hat and gloves for winter and sunscreen for summer
- Books, games, puzzles and other comfort items
- Duct tape
- Plastic sheeting or tarp