

Winter Weather



Winter storms are considered deceptive killers because most deaths are indirectly related to the storm.

A major winter storm can last for several days with high winds, freezing rain or sleet, heavy snowfall and cold temperatures.

Everyone is potentially at risk during winter storms. The actual threat to you depends on your specific situation.

- A National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration or NOAA all-hazards weather radio alerts you to weather watches and warnings in your area.
- Smoke alarms should be either battery-powered or have a battery back-up in case you lose power.
- Keep space heaters at least three feet away from anything that can burn - "SPACE HEATERS NEED SPACE."
- Heat sources using kerosene, propane or natural gas can cause a build-up of carbon monoxide or CO in the home if they are not vented or vented improperly.
- In case of power loss, operate generators outside of the home to avoid a build-up of CO and always follow manufacturer's recommendations.
- Avoid conditions like frostbite and hypothermia or low body temperature by dressing warm in layers and limiting your exposure to the cold.
- Be cautious when walking outside to avoid slips and falls.
- Travel only when road conditions allow for safe passage.
- When traveling, plan your trip; match your speed to road conditions; leave early and allow extra time for travel; keep a car kit on hand with things like a windshield scraper and small broom for snow and ice removal, blankets, flashlight with batteries, first aid kit, extra clothing, shovel, tools, booster cables, ready-to-eat food, water container, tow rope or chains, map and compass; and always buckle up!
- Visit [Prepare Metro KC](#) for additional information about winter weather to prepare:
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 - During a winter storm
 - In a vehicle
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