

Winter Weather



Safety Tips: Before, During and After a Winter Storm

During a winter storm, it is especially important to take precautions to ensure the safety of your family. The following winter safety tips provide you with measures to take before, during and after a winter storm.

If a storm is coming...

- **Be aware.** Listen to weather forecasts to ensure sufficient warning prior to the storm's arrival.
- **Prepare to be isolated.** Remain hydrated by drinking plenty of water and avoiding caffeine or alcohol.
- **Create a winter weather safety kit.** Include first aid materials, flashlights, dried food items and water.

During a winter storm...

- **Close rooms that do not require heat.** To ensure your home retains warmth efficiently.
- **Keep winter clothing and blankets on-hand.**
- **Conserve physical energy.**
- **Watch for signs of hypothermia and frostbite.** Signs of hypothermia include slurred speech and confusion. Symptoms of frostbite include white patches on the flesh on extremities (fingers, toes, ears and nose) as well as painful tingling or numbing.
- **Keep your home well ventilated.** Ensure carbon monoxide detectors and smoke alarms are operational.

After a storm has passed...

- **Check Your Home.** Proceed with caution when re-entering your home if you were away during the storm, there may be water damage or flooding.
- **Check your plumbing.** If there is damage to your plumbing from frozen or leaking pipes, immediately shut off the water.
- **Assess potential structural damage.** Check roof leaks or sags, external chimney damage and fallen tree branches that may have struck your home.
- **Check for gas leaks.** Then ensure that electricity, water and sewage are functioning. As a precaution, boil any tap water you intend to use in order to eliminate harmful bacteria.
- **In the event of a power outage,** do not turn on your power breakers until after power has been restored. Once power has been restored, monitor performance by both sight and smell. If you see any sparks or smell anything burning, immediately shut off your power supply.



For more information about preparing for winter weather, please visit www.libertymutual.com/winter.

