

Media Advisory – Dec. 19, 2008

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Winter preparedness urged this weekend

The Snohomish County Department of Emergency Management (DEM) is coordinating resources with the American Red Cross and the Snohomish County PUD in preparation for weekend winds, ice and snow.

The National Weather Service has predicted a significant storm could descend on the Puget Sound beginning Saturday evening, with other storm events following. Freezing temperatures and high winds, along with more snow and freezing rain, could down power lines and trees as well as make driving conditions difficult.

County road crews, PUD power crews and emergency response personnel will continue to work around the clock to respond to weather related situations.

Residents, however, are urged to prepare for excessive weather conditions. Below are tips to follow:

Preparing Home & Family

- Review and update your family emergency plan.
- Replenish your emergency supply kits including battery-operated radio and flashlights.
- Stock extra water (a gallon per person per day), food and clothing.
- Have extra blankets on hand.
- To prevent carbon-monoxide poisoning, never use heating devices inside the home that are intended for outdoor use, such as barbeques and other cooking equipment.
- Move family pets indoors or to an enclosure out of the elements.
- Winterize your house, barn, shed or any other structure that may provide shelter.
- Clear rain gutters and cut away tree branches that could fall during a storm.
- Maintain a sufficient supply of heating fuel.
- Insulate pipes and allow faucets to drip during cold weather to avoid freezing.
- Keep fire extinguishers on hand
- Know how to shut off water valves (in case a pipe bursts).

Traveling with Caution

- Have your car winterized and make sure it is working properly.
- Install good winter tires.
- Keep a shovel, windshield scraper and blankets inside your vehicle.
- Maintain at least a half tank of gas at all times.

- Check road conditions before departing.
- Let others know of your route and your estimated time of arrival.
- Allow extra time and extra distance between vehicles.

For more winter-weather tips, go to:

www.snoco.org/Departments/Emergency_Management/Information/Factsheets

www.snopud.com/about/CustomerNews/NewsReleases.ashx?3164_na=32242&p=1842

www.redcross.org/article/0,1072,0_312_8520,00.html

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