



Each year, winter returns to Iowa and produces winter storms, blizzards, ice storms and periods of extremely cold temperatures as well as dangerous wind chills. A big part of being prepared for winter weather is being aware of potential hazards. One preparedness step for Iowans to take now is to sign up for emergency alerts through Alert Iowa.

Alert Iowa is an emergency notification system currently available in 75 counties. By signing up for alerts, residents in those counties can receive notifications about winter weather and other hazards and emergency conditions.

“Alert Iowa is a great tool to help Iowans stay aware of winter weather hazards,” said Lindsey Mosher, Alert Iowa program manager. “Alert Iowa is user friendly, and allows people to sign up to receive alerts in a variety of ways, including by text, cell phone or land-line calls or email. So no matter where you are, you will know if winter weather and other hazards might impact you or your family.”

To learn which counties are offering Alert Iowa and how to sign up, click here to visit HSEMD’s website.



www.homelandsecurity.iowa.gov

Here are a few “must haves” when winterizing your car or home:

- A supply of food and water for each person in your home for at least three days
- At least a week’s supply of essential medications
- Personal hygiene items
- First aid kit
- Battery-operated flashlight and NOAA Weather Radio (and extra batteries)
- Extra clothing/bedding

Some items just for your vehicle:

- Window scraper
- Jumper cables
- Kitty litter or sand (for traction)
- Small shovel and other tools
- Brightly-colored cloth to use as a flag should you become stuck

BE PREPARED – IS YOUR VEHICLE READY FOR WINTER?

THERE ARE THINGS YOU CAN DO AT THE START OF WINTER, BEFORE THE BAD WEATHER, TO PREPARE YOUR VEHICLE AND REDUCE THE CHANCES OF BREAKING DOWN.

CHECK YOUR VEHICLE IS IN GOOD RUNNING ORDER, MAKE SURE TYRES HAVE GOT PLENTY OF TREAD AND CONSIDER REGULAR SERVICING TO HELP MINIMISE THE RISK.

IF YOU'RE GOING AWAY, CHECK WHAT THE FORECAST SAYS FOR YOUR RETURN JOURNEY AND IF YOU'RE TRAVELLING SOME DISTANCE REMEMBER TO CHECK THE WEATHER AT YOUR DESTINATION AND ALONG THE ROUTE TOO.

CHECK THAT YOUR VEHICLE IS READY FOR WINTER USING THE POWDERY CHECKLIST AS A GOOD REMINDER:

- PETROL** (or diesel). Have you got enough? Do you know where to fill up?
- OIL** — check levels once a month
- WATER** — check radiator and screenwash regularly
- DAMAGE** — check wipers, lights etc for signs of wear and tear or damage, and make sure windscreens, windows and lights are clear of ice and snow.
- ELECTRICS** — check lights, indicators and controls are working properly
- RUBBER TYRES** — are they well inflated, legal, with good tread and free from damage?
- YOU** — are you fit to drive? Have you slept well? Are you taking any medication that could make it unsafe for you to drive?

GATHER TOGETHER THE FOLLOWING ITEMS AND PACK IN YOUR VEHICLE AT THE START OF THE WINTER SEASON, YOU NEVER KNOW WHEN YOU MIGHT NEED THEM!

- Ice scraper and de-icer
- Warm clothes and blankets — for you and all passengers
- Torch and spare batteries — or a wind-up torch
- Boots
- First aid kit
- Jump leads
- A shovel
- Road atlas
- Sunglasses (the glare off winter sun can be dazzling)

IN ADDITION, WHEN SETTING OUT ON JOURNEYS DURING THE WINTER SEASON REMEMBER TO TAKE WITH YOU:

- Food and a flask with a hot drink
- Any medication you, or other people traveling with you, need to take regularly

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