Be Ready Tip(s) of the Month

February Tip:  Freeze out Winter Storms!

You can freeze out winter storm blues by taking precautions that have you ready.

Tip #1:  Be informed and know winter storm terminology:

Freezing rain—Rain that freezes when it hits the ground. Ice may coat roads, walkways, trees, and power lines.

Sleet—Rain that freezes into ice pellets before it reaches the ground. Sleet can cause any moisture on roads and walkways to freeze.

Winter storm watch—A winter storm is possible. Stay tuned to radio or TV for more information and instructions.

Winter storm warning—A winter storm is occurring or will occur soon.

Blizzard warning—Considerable amounts of snow with sustained winds or frequent gusts up to 35 mph are expected to prevail for at least three hours. Visibility is reduced to less than a quarter mile.

Frost/freeze warning—Below-freezing temperatures are expected.

Tip #2:  Make a plan and consider what to use for emergency heat in case the electricity goes out:

- Fireplace with ample supply of wood
- Small, well-vented camp stove with fuel
- Portable space or kerosene heater (check with your Fire Department first)

  *Note: Heating fires account for 36% of residential home fires every year during winter months.*

- Keep anything combustible at least three feet away from any heat source.
- Use fire screens to keep the fire in the fireplace and have your chimney cleaned every year.
- Make sure that your home has at least one smoke detector

**Tip #3:** Build an emergency supply kit for your home and car.

- Include rock salt, sand, snow shovels, and other snow-removal equipment, adequate winter clothing, and batteries for radio and flashlights.

**Tip #4:** Make sure your home is properly insulated.

- Caulk and weather strip doors and windows to keep out cold air.
- Insulate pipes to prevent freezing.

**Tip #5:** Keep your car’s gas tank full to keep the fuel line from freezing and for emergency.

**Tip #6:** Be sure to listen to and follow the directions and warnings of local authorities and your Unit Command.

For more information on how to prepare for a winter storm, view the Ready Coast Guard fact sheet at [http://www.uscg.mil/hr/cg111/docs/Ready/NH_Winter_Storm.pdf](http://www.uscg.mil/hr/cg111/docs/Ready/NH_Winter_Storm.pdf).

**Pass it on, so all are prepared.**

Semper Paratus!