



Wood County Emergency Management Newsletter

Wood County

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Winter Driving in Wisconsin

Know before you go this winter season with the 511 Wisconsin Smartphone App. You can access statewide travel resources such as road conditions, travel times, travel delays, incident alerts, construction closures and traffic cameras.

In the last 5 years, Wisconsin



Snowflake

has averaged over 18,000 motor vehicle accidents when the roads are covered with ice, snow and slush. Many of these crashes are caused by people driving too fast for conditions. Be gentle with both the accelerator and the brake. Don't be over confident with four wheel drive vehicles. Don't use cruise control in wintery conditions and always leave room for snow plows.

Motorists in Wisconsin should also carry a winter emergency kit in their vehicles. Your kit should contain blankets or sleeping bags, extra hats, socks and mittens; a flashlight with extra

batteries; first aid kit; shovel, booster cables and a windshield scraper; water and non-perishable high calorie foods; sand or cat litter and a cell phone adapter. You should also make sure that you have candles in your vehicle. These come in handy for warmth if you're stranded for a longer period of time. Make sure you are well versed in the use of all items in your emergency kit. If your vehicle goes off the road and you are stuck, stay inside your vehicle with your seat belt fastened as protection against other out of control vehicles.



Knowing the Difference Between Watches, Warnings and Advisories

Winter Weather Advisory— There is high confidence that a hazardous winter event will happen with 3 to 5 inches of snow over a 12 hour period, but the event will likely not meet warning criteria.

Winter Storm Watch— Winter storm conditions including freezing rain, sleet and heavy snow are possible within the next 36-48 hours. Continue monitoring the weather forecast.

Winter Storm or Ice Warning— A significant winter storm is occurring or will begin in the next 24 hours. Snowfall rates could be in the range of 6 inches in 12 hours or 8 inches in 24 hours. Cont.

Know the Difference cont.

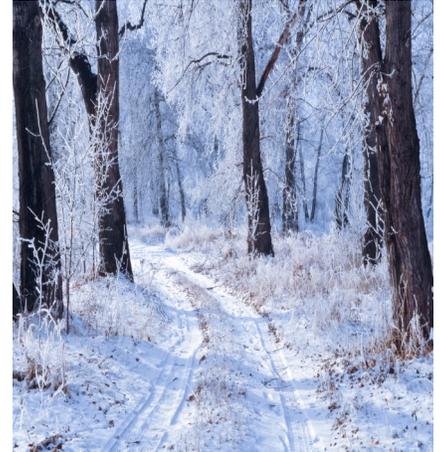
The combination of snow, sleet, freezing rain and moderate winds will impact travel and outdoor activities. An Ice Storm Warning is issued when mostly freezing rain is expected with ice accumulations of ¼ inch or more within a 12-hour period. Take necessary precautions – consider canceling travel plans.

Blizzard Warning—A dangerous storm with winds that are 35 mph or greater in combination with falling and/or blowing snow that reduces visibility to 1/4 mile or less for a

duration of at least 3 hours. Canceling travel plans is advised.

Wind Chill Advisory- -Wind Chills of 20 -34 below zero.

Wind Chill Warning—Issued for wind chills 35 below zero and lower. Frostbite is possible when outside for 10 minutes or less.



Keep Warm and Safe

Frostbite is damage to body tissue caused by extreme cold. A wind chill around -20 degrees could cause frostbite in 15 minutes or less. Frostbite causes a loss of feeling, and a white pale appearance in extremities such as fingers, toes, ear tips or noses. If symptoms are detected, seek medical help immediately!

Hypothermia is a condition that develops when the body temperature drops below 95 degrees. It is very deadly.

Warning signs include uncontrollable shivering, disorientation, slurred speech and drowsiness. Seek medical care immediately!

Overexertion is dangerous. Cold weather puts an added strain on the heart. Unaccustomed exercise such as shoveling snow or pushing a car can bring on a heart attack or make existing medical conditions worse.

“Cold weather puts an added strain on the heart.”

Pets and Winter Weather

Pets also need extra care when temperatures fall. They should be brought inside when the temperature reaches 30 degrees F with the wind chill. Dogs and cats can get frost bitten ears, nose and feet if left outside during bitter cold weather. Chemicals used to melt snow and ice can also irritate pets’ paws. And always be sure to keep anti-freeze, salt and other poisons away from pets.



During a Winter Storm

Drive only if absolutely necessary. Travel during the day and avoid back roads and short cuts. If a blizzard traps you in your car:

- Pull to the side of the road, turn your hazard lights on and hang a distress flag from your antennae.
- Remain in your vehicle.
- Run the engine and heater about 10 min. each hour to stay warm. Periodically clear the exhaust pipe.
- Exercise to maintain body heat, but avoid overexertion.

- Make sure to tell someone your destination and expected arrival time.
- Take turns sleeping. One person should be awake at all times.
- Drink fluids to avoid dehydration.
- Be careful not to waste battery power.
- Turn on the inside light at night to be more visible.
- Stomp out HELP or SOS and line with evergreen branches for higher visibility if you are not on a main

road.

- Make sure to have a winter car survival kit with you at all times.



Winter Vehicle Emergency Kit and 911 Tips

Carry a winter storm survival kit in the back seat of your vehicle (in case your trunk jams or is frozen shut) that includes:

- Blankets or sleeping bags
- Extra hats, socks and mittens
- Flashlight with extra batteries
- First Aid Kit
- Shovel, jumper cables and windshield scraper

- Water and high-calorie non-perishable food (raisins, candy bars, energy/protein bars)
- Sand or cat litter to use for traction
- Cell phone adapter

911 tips:

- If possible, call 911 on your cell phone. Provide your location, condition of everyone in the vehicle and the problem you're experiencing.
- Follow instructions: you may be

told to stay where you are until help arrives.

- Do not hang up until you know who you have spoken with and what will happen next.
- If you must leave the vehicle, write down your name, address, phone number and destination. Leave this inside the vehicle where rescue personnel can find it.

Why Are Weather Radios Important?

A weather radio is like a smoke detector for severe weather and hazardous conditions. Every family and business needs one.

A NOAA Weather Radio All Hazards with an alarm and battery back up is one of the best ways to protect your family.

The alarm feature can wake you up

during severe weather and give you time to seek shelter.

A NOAA Weather Radio is a 24 hour source of weather forecasts, watches, warnings and non-weather emergency information.



If there is no severe weather it can be switched to standby mode.

A Weather Radio with SAME technology allows you to program your radio to alarm only for hazardous conditions that affect your county.

Wood County

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We're on the web!

**[www.co.wood.wi.us/
departments/EM](http://www.co.wood.wi.us/departments/EM)**

Preparedness Counts!



The Wood County Emergency Management Office assists local government in the protection of lives, property and the environment in the event of major emergencies or disaster of any nature; allows for the assessment of hazards, mitigation opportunities, response capabilities, resources and needs; identifies and deploys resources effectively and allocates emergency responsibilities and authority among local government agencies; coordinates activities among agencies and all levels of government; records information, decisions and procedures developed during the planning process and during actual emergency situations; and provides a basis for training and exercising personnel to operate in coordination with one another.

Take Action to Prevent the Flu (Contributed by the Wood County Health Department)

Flu is a potentially serious, contagious disease. It can cause mild to severe illness. The symptoms of flu can include fever, chills, cough, sore throat, runny or stuffy nose, muscle or body aches, headaches and tiredness. Serious outcomes of flu can lead to hospitalization and even death. CDC recommends a three-step approach to fight flu:

1. Get a flu vaccine. Everyone 6 months and older should get a flu vaccine by the end of October. Getting a flu vaccine every year provides the best protection against flu. While there are many different flu viruses, flu vaccines protect against the 3 or 4 viruses that research suggests will be most common. Flu vaccines cannot cause flu illness. A flu vaccine is made with a flu virus that has been inactivated and is not infectious.
2. Take everyday actions to stop the spread of germs. Try to avoid close contact with sick people. If you become sick limit your contact with others by staying home from work or school. Cover your nose and mouth with a tissue when you cough or sneeze, and wash your hands often.
3. Take flu antiviral drugs if your doctor prescribes them. If you get sick with flu, prescription flu antiviral drugs can be used to treat flu illness. Antiviral drugs can make illness milder and shorten the time you are sick. They may also prevent serious flu complications.

Learn more about influenza at

www.cdc.gov/flu/index.htm

