



# Winter Hazard Awareness and Safety Information

## WINTER SAFETY CHECKLIST — AFTER A WINTER STORM

### IF POWER GOES OUT:

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- If someone in the home is on life-support or otherwise electricity-dependent due to a disability, immediately notify your city or county Emergency Management Department and your utility.
- If the outage is only in your home or neighborhood, notify your utility as soon as possible and determine anticipated repair time.
- Turn off or unplug lights and appliances to prevent a circuit overload (spike) when the power returns. Leave one light on to let you know when power has been restored.
- Avoid and report downed power lines or areas where ice, trees or objects are laying on the lines.

### HEAT:

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- Use safe alternative heat sources such as a fireplace, a small, well-vented wood or coal stove, or a propane space heater. Follow manufacturers' instructions and never substitute one type of fuel for another.
- To prevent carbon monoxide poisoning by alternative heat sources:
  - Ensure adequate ventilation.
  - Do not operate generators indoors or near ventilations.
  - Do not use charcoal or gas grills to cook indoors.
  - Do not use your gas oven or dryer to heat your home.
- Keep your refrigerator and freezer doors closed as much as possible to avoid food spoilage.
- Dress in layers of lightweight clothing and wear a cap.
- Eat well-balanced meals to keep your body warm. Stay well hydrated.
- Close off rooms you do not need.

### CLEARING YOUR ROOF OF SNOW AND ICE:

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- Clearing your roof is a dangerous task. Think about safety first. If possible, do not attempt to clear the roof alone.
- When possible, use long-handled rakes or poles designed for roof snow removal.
- If you must use a ladder, make sure the base is securely anchored. Ask someone to hold the ladder while you climb.
- Plan ahead so you know where the snow you clear will fall — and what it will land on.
- Do not touch electrical wires.
- If the job is too big for you, ask neighbors for help or hire a service.