Cold Weather Safety Tips

At home

- Check on elderly family and neighbors.

- Be sure smoke and carbon monoxide detectors are working. Carbon monoxide can result from snow-covered external vents. Major home appliances such as a clothes dryer and furnace vent air and gases outside; please make sure they are free of snow and debris.

- Start your snow blower in a well-ventilated area to avoid possible carbon monoxide poisoning.

- Don’t use stoves, ovens or grills as sources of heat.

- When using a space heater be sure to keep anything flammable at least three feet away, such as clothing, bedding, paper or rugs. Also, be sure to turn off and unplug space heaters before leaving the room or going to bed.

- Use a glass or metal screen in front of fireplaces to catch sparks of rolling logs.

- Protect your pipes by letting the faucets drip, even at a trickle, in order to prevent them from freezing. Also, keep cabinet doors open near pipes to allow warm air to circulate around them.

- Stock up. Have a week’s worth of food and supplies at home to avoid having to leave the house.

- Don’t overexert yourself when shoveling.

- Locate the main water shut off valve in your home and mark it for quick identification to turn it off. If a water pipe bursts, shutting your home’s main valve quickly will minimize flooding and property damage.

- Protect your pets when they go outside.

On the road

- Check your vehicle’s tire pressure, as it can drop with falling temperatures.

- Watch the battery. The cold weather can drain the battery and make it more difficult for the vehicle to start.

- Keep the gas tank at least half full.

- Keep emergency supplies in your vehicle, including blankets, jumper cables, windshield wiper fluid, water, snacks and a flashlight with extra batteries.

- Wear layers.

- Notify family, friends or neighbors when travelling of your itinerary or expected route and time frame of travel.

- Monitor the weather at [http://weather.gov/Chicago](http://weather.gov/Chicago)
- A list of local warming centers can be found at [www.ProtectDuPage.org](http://www.ProtectDuPage.org)