

Winter Driving

Plan your travels and check the latest weather reports to avoid the storm. You can find out the latest road conditions by going to the Wisconsin Department of Transportation website at <http://www.dot.wisconsin.gov>.

It is also important to check and winterize your vehicles before the winter season begins. Keep your gas tank near full to avoid ice in the tank and fuel lines. Carry a winter storm survival kit in your vehicle that includes:

- * Blankets or sleeping bags
- * Flashlight with extra batteries
- * First-Aid Kit
- * Shovel, tools, booster cables and windshield scraper
- * High-calorie non-perishable food
- * Sand or cat litter to use for traction

Winter Weather Facts

- * Typically there are over 17,000 vehicle accidents in Wisconsin during winter months when roads are covered with ice, snow or slush.
- * On average in Wisconsin, 75 people are killed and 7,000 people are injured each winter season in accidents when roads are ice, snow or slush covered.
- * Most crashes are caused by “driving too fast for current conditions.”
- * Heavy rains and snowmelt in late winter or early spring can result in flooded roads.

WI Department of Transportation
National Weather Service



Be Prepared

Some of the dangers associated with winter storms include loss of heat, power and telephone service and a shortage of supplies. To help protect your family now is the time to put together a disaster supply kit. Here are some items to include:

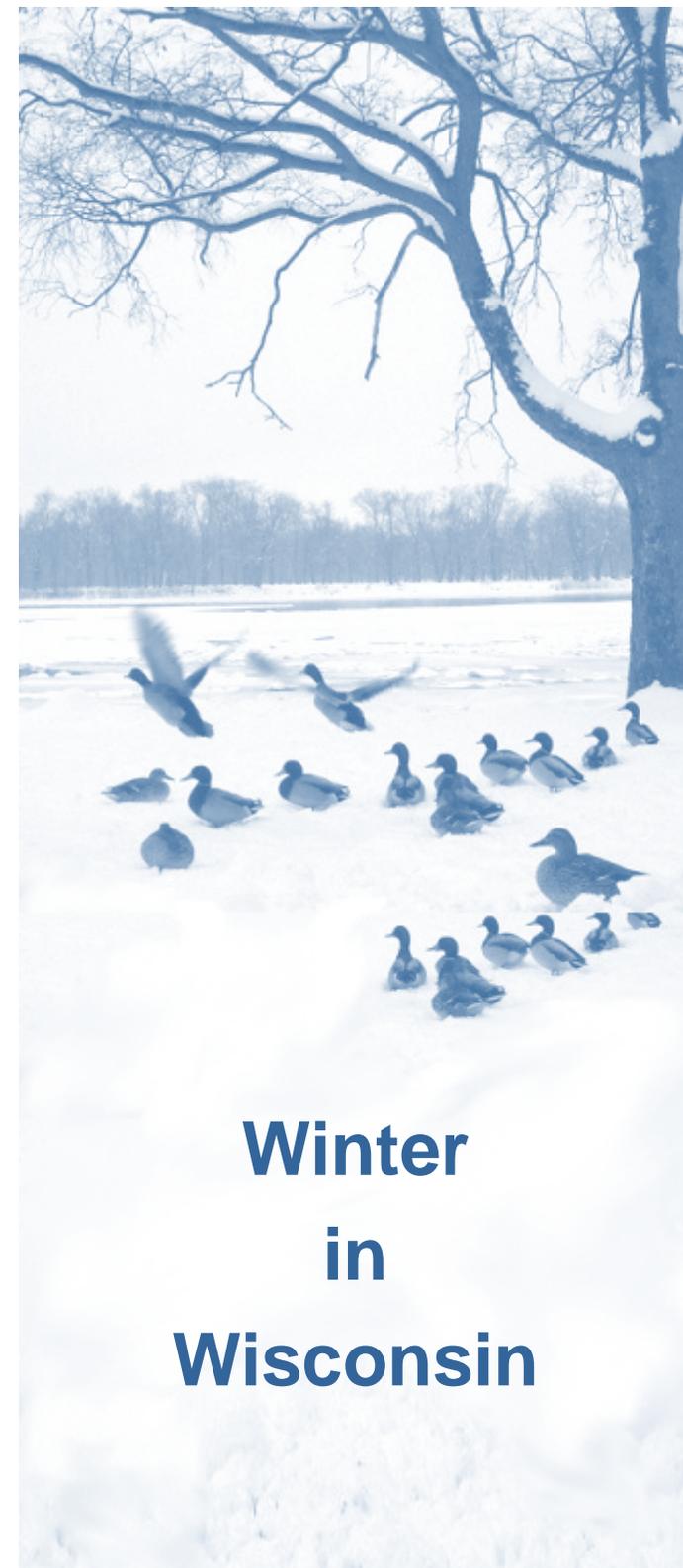
- * Flashlights and extra batteries
- * Battery-powered NOAA Weather Radio and a commercial radio
- * Non-perishable food that requires no cooking and bottled water
- * First-aid supplies
- * Fire extinguisher, smoke detector and carbon monoxide detector
- * If appropriate, extra medications and baby items
- * If you have an emergency heating source, such as a fireplace or space heater -- make sure you have proper ventilation.
- * Make sure pets have plenty of food, water and shelter

For additional information, contact your county emergency management office, the National Weather Service or Wisconsin Emergency Management at 608-242-3232. Winter safety tips can also be found at the following websites:

www.weather.gov

<http://emergencymanagement.wi.gov>

Wisconsin's Winter Awareness Week is coordinated by the National Weather Service, Wisconsin Emergency Management and county emergency management offices.



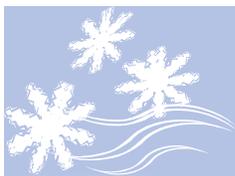
**Winter
in
Wisconsin**

Winter Awareness Week

Winter is a great time in Wisconsin. From sledding to ice fishing, there is always something fun to do. But winter conditions can be dangerous. That is why Governor Doyle has proclaimed November 10-14, 2008 as Wisconsin's Winter Awareness Week.

The annual winter campaign sponsored by Wisconsin Emergency Management and the National Weather Service is to remind people to be prepared for winter conditions that could threaten their safety. It is important to take preventive measures before the snowstorm hits. Winterize your automobile and home, place emergency supplies in your vehicle and put together a family emergency disaster kit. In addition, make sure you have a NOAA weather radio with fresh batteries to alert you and your family that a storm is approaching.

Stay Informed



The National Weather Service (NWS) issues storm warning and watches. Here's what they mean and what you should do.

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

Winter Storm, Ice Storm, Heavy Snow or Heavy Sleet Warning—A significant winter event is occurring or will begin in the next 24 hours. Take necessary precautions—consider canceling travel plans.

Blizzard Warning—Winds that are 35mph or greater, blowing snow with reduced visibility to 1/4 mile or less for a duration of at least 3 hours and dangerous wind chills are expected.

Avoid Falls This Winter

Thousands of us slip and fall every winter on snow, ice covered pavement and wet flooring inside building entrances. Many of these falls result in long recoveries from painful injuries such as broken arms, legs and hips; severe back injuries and concussions.

To help avoid a slip or fall this winter, remember to:

- * Wear high traction footwear
- * Slow down, take short careful steps at first and then adjust your pace to surface conditions
- * Point your feet slightly outward to maintain your center of balance
- * Use railings or other stable objects when available
- * Fully wipe your shoes and boots on floor mats
- * Enter and exit your vehicle slowly, holding onto the door and steering wheel while stepping onto or off of a slippery surface

Be careful, don't rush or take shortcuts, evaluate walking surfaces carefully and always use caution especially during winter months to help yourself avoid a slip and fall.

Winter Weather Facts

* The coldest temperature reported during the 2007-2008 winter season was -37° at Clam Lake on Dec. 6, 2007.

* Gurney had reported a total of 147 inches of snow during the 2007-2008 winter season.



Injuries Due to Cold, Snow & Ice

- People over 60 years old suffer 50% of the hypothermia and frostbite cases.
- About 70% of injuries due to ice and snow result from vehicle accidents.



Keep Warm and Safe

Frostbite is damage to body tissue caused by extreme cold. A wind chill of -20° Fahrenheit (F) could cause frostbite in just 15 minutes or less. Frostbite causes a loss of feeling and a white or pale appearance in extremities such as fingers, toes, ear tips or the tip of the nose. If symptoms are detected—Seek medical care Immediately!

Hypothermia is a condition that develops when the body temperature drops below 95° F. 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 an existing medical condition worse.

Pets also need extra care when the temperatures fall. They should be brought inside when the temperature reaches 30° with 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 be sure to keep anti-freeze, salt and other poisons away from pets as well.