

WINTER SNOWSTORM PREPARATION GUIDELINES

With the anticipated snowstorm this weekend, the Orange Volunteer Fire Company would like to remind all residents of the following :

Prepare Your Home

- Make sure **smoke alarms and carbon monoxide (CO) detectors** are working on every level of your home
 - Replace batteries now and test alarms before the storm
 - Remember that smoke detectors that work on your house current will need to also rely on the battery when there is power loss. Check your batteries should we lose power.
 - Have a safe backup heat source in case of power outages
 - Protect pipes from freezing and know how to shut off your water
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Alternative Heating Safety (Kerosene & Propane)

- Use **only heaters approved for indoor use**
 - Follow all manufacturer instructions carefully
 - Never use outdoor heaters, grills, camp stoves, or generators inside your home or garage
 - Keep heaters at least **3 feet** away from anything that can burn
 - Never leave heaters unattended or operating while sleeping
 - Store fuel safely in approved containers and away from heat sources
 - Use **ONLY** the appropriate fuel for any indoor heating device.
 - If you plan to burn wood, please ensure you have your damper open and your chimney inspected before burning in any fireplace or woodstove.
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Carbon Monoxide Safety

- Carbon monoxide is a **colorless, odorless, deadly gas**
- Any fuel-burning device (kerosene, propane, gas, wood) can produce CO
- Install CO detectors on every level of your home and near sleeping areas
- If a CO alarm sounds:
 - Get everyone outside to fresh air immediately
 - Call 911 from outside the home

- Never ignore CO symptoms such as headache, dizziness, nausea, or confusion
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Emergency Supplies (Have enough available for at Least 72 Hours)

- Food and drinking water
 - Medications and medical equipment
 - Flashlights and extra batteries (please avoid candles)
 - Cell phones fully charged and backup power banks
 - Warm blankets and clothing
 - Pet food and supplies. With temperatures dropping to extreme lows, bring pets indoors.
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Vehicle Preparation

- Avoid travel unless absolutely necessary.
 - Keep vehicles fueled and winter-ready
 - Carry an emergency kit including blankets, food, water, and a flashlight if you do travel.
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Outdoor & Utility Safety

- Clear snow from furnace and dryer vents to prevent CO buildup
 - Keep generators outdoors, at least 20 feet from buildings
 - Again, bring pets indoors or ensure proper shelter
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Check on Others

- Check on elderly neighbors, those with medical needs, and anyone living alone
 - Offer assistance when safe to do so.
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Help Us Help You

- Call 911 for emergencies only
- Keep fire hydrants clear of snow if you are able. We really need your help to monitor snow pack in and around hydrants. If we have to dig them out, it delays our ability to come help you or your neighbor in the event of an emergency.

- Ensure house numbers are visible from the road
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Stay Informed

- Monitor local weather alerts and trusted news sources
- Monitor Orange County's local government website : www.orangecountyva.gov
- Monitor the Town of Orange's local website : www.townoforangeva.gov
- Monitor Social media for both localities, the Orange Volunteer Fire Company and Orange County Fire & EMS
- If you have questions about warming shelters, roadway conditions or general storm related questions, you can reach the 911 Center at their non-emergency line : 540-672-1234
- Understand that as road conditions deteriorate, our response capabilities are greatly impacted. All emergency services across Orange County are taking appropriate precautions and measures to be as prepared as possible.