



## Severe Winter Storms | Before Hazard Preparation Checklist

### What Can I Do Before a Winter Storm?

- Purchase a NOAA Weather Radio to ensure you receive critical warning information.
- Register for CT Alert.
- Develop a Family Disaster Plan. Talk with members of your household about what to do if a winter storm watch or warning is issued.
- Make a 72-hour emergency kit.
- Plan what you will do to protect or shelter your pets and/or farm animals.
- Consider having the following items available before the storm:
  - Non-clumping kitty litter to make walkways and steps less slippery
  - A warm coat, gloves, hat, water-resistant boots, and extra blankets and warm clothing for each member of the household
  - Snow shovels or other snow removal equipment
- Winterize your home.
- Keep trees and shrubbery trimmed.
- Fix loose rain gutters and downspouts and clear them if they are clogged to prevent ice dams.
- Learn how to turn off your utilities.
- Service home heating equipment, including chimneys, and ensure you have enough heating fuel.
- Protect pipes from freezing.
- Winterize your vehicle.

### If you have large animals or livestock:

- Install snow fences to reduce drifting snow on roads and paths which could block movement or access.
- Create a place where your animals can be comfortable in severe winter weather.
- Prepare your home or barn facility to bring animals indoors. Grazing animals should have access to a protected supply of food and non-frozen water.
- Ensure that any outbuildings that house or shelter animals can withstand wind and heavy snow and ice.

### If a winter storm alert is Issued:

- Monitor conditions using a NOAA Weather Radio or your preferred local news source.
- Heed the advice of the governor or local emergency management officials.
- Fill your car's gas tank.
- Stock up on prescription medications.
- Check your Disaster Supply Kit and replace or restock items as needed.
- Ensure that you have working flashlights and batteries.
- Store drinking water in clean plastic bottles and pots and pans. Fill bathtubs and sinks with water to use for flushing the toilet and washing floors and clothing (but not for drinking).
- Ensure that animals are sheltered and have a supply of non-frozen water.
- Ensure that you have supplies (large plastic bags, paper towels, and extra cat litter) for cleaning up after your companion animals, particularly if they are used to eliminating outdoors.