



SPRINGFIELD- GREENE COUNTY OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

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330 W. Scott St.
Springfield, MO 65802

PREPARE | RESPOND | RECOVER

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: December 16, 2016

Prepare Now for This Weekend's Arctic Blast

SPRINGFIELD, Missouri- Get ready for an extremely cold weekend. A strong arctic front will usher in bitterly cold temperatures, with wind chill values on Sunday morning expected to reach -5 to -15 degrees across southwest Missouri. Now is the time to make sure you and your family are prepared to face this weekend's arctic blast.

"The best thing people can do when winter weather is in the forecast is to stay informed. Keep up to date on the latest forecasts, and if winter weather is anticipated, stay home if it all possible. Being outside for any length of time in sub-zero weather conditions is extremely dangerous, so stay warm by staying indoors." said Larry Woods, interim director of the Office of Emergency Management.

Make sure you're ready for winter weather by following these simple preparedness tips:

Personal Preparedness:

- Ensure your family's emergency preparedness plan is up to date.
- Keep a fully stocked emergency kit in an easily accessible place in case of a power outage. Include water, non-perishable food items, extra clothes, blanket, flashlight with extra batteries, cash, first aid kit, extra necessary medications or up-to-date list of medications and a NOAA weather radio.
- If outdoors, dress in warm layers, including hats, gloves and scarves.
- Recognize the symptoms of frostbite and hypothermia and seek shelter at the first signs of such.
- Check on your neighbors, especially the elderly, to ensure they are safe and warm.
- Bring your pets indoors if possible, and provide a warm and dry place of shelter from the cold.

Vehicle Preparedness:

- Replace worn tires, and ensure each tire has adequate tread and is fully aired.
- Replace windshield wiper fluid with a wintertime mixture.
- Have your vehicle's radiator system serviced or check the antifreeze to ensure a sufficient level.
- Keep your gas tank full to avoid ice in the tank and fuel lines, and in the event you become stranded in your vehicle during a winter storm event.
- Keep a fully-stocked emergency kit in your vehicle, which should include a blanket, extra hats and gloves, an ice scraper, non-perishable snack items and water bottles, a flashlight with extra batteries, emergency flares, chains or rope, sand or kitty litter, a toolkit and jumper cables.

"If you do plan to travel this weekend, use caution and plan your route accordingly. Dress appropriately in warm layers and make your time outdoors as brief as possible." said Woods.

For more winter weather safety tips, visit www.greenecountyoem.org or <http://www.nws.noaa.gov/om/cold/index.shtml>.

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