



**Jefferson County Homeland Security and Emergency
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Jefferson County Homeland Security and Emergency Management Reminds Residents about Preparing for Extreme Winter Weather

With the potential for a major winter storm this weekend, Jefferson County Homeland Security and Emergency Management (JCHSEM) is encouraging all residents of Jefferson County to be prepared for the impending winter storm. On Wednesday, January 20th, the National Weather Service has issued a Winter Storm Watch from Friday, afternoon through late Saturday night. There is the potential for a substantial amount of snow and gusty winds to impact the region.

Therefore, before the storm occurs, it is always a great idea to ensure your emergency preparedness kit is fully stocked. During a winter storm, you need to be prepared for not having power, water, or heat for several days. If you do not have an emergency preparedness kit, here is a list of basic items and seasonal items which should be included in your family's kit:

- **WATER** – Ensure you have at least 1 gallon of water per person per day for at least 3 days. (Store a longer than 3-day supply of water, if possible). An average person needs to drink about 3/4 of a gallon of fluid daily. Individual needs vary depending on age, gender, health, level of activity, food choices, and climate. You may also need stored water for food preparation.
- **FOOD** – Store at least a 3-day supply of non-perishable food for members of your household, including pets. Consider special dietary needs (e.g., infant formula). Include a non-electric can opener for canned food
- **FLASHLIGHT, RADIO, and CELL PHONE CHARGER** – You will need to be able to charge these items without electricity. Your flashlight and radio should be either hand-cranked or battery-powered, and stored with extra batteries. Your cell phone charger should be hand-crank, solar, or able to be charged from a car outlet.
- **MEDICAL** – Include first aid kit, prescription and non-prescription/over-the-counter medications, and medical supplies.
- **SANITATION** – Pack supplies for sanitation, such as hand sanitizer, towelettes, paper products, diapers, and plastic bags, for use when water resources are limited.
- **ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY** – Include battery backup power for power-dependent mobility devices, oxygen, and other assistive technology needs.
- **EXTRA CLOTHING, BLANKETS, and SLEEPING BAGS** – Dress in layers to keep warm if you lose power. Ensure you have enough clothing, hats, mittens, and blankets or sleeping bags for everyone in the house.
- **ITEMS FOR SNOW AND ICE** – Stock up on rock salt to melt ice on walkways or sand or kitty litter to improve traction and snow shovels or other snow removal equipment.
- **WOOD** – Store a supply of dry, seasoned wood if you have a working fireplace or wood-burning stove with a safe flue or vent.

Please note that this is a basic list of supplies that should be in your emergency preparedness kit. Your kit should reflect your family's specific needs (such as access and functional needs, pets, or infants). For a more suggestions on what to include in your emergency preparedness kit, please check out: <http://www.ready.gov/kit>

In addition to having an emergency preparedness kit, there are several resources that you may need to use during the storm.

Department of Transportation: 304-725-5821

To check road conditions: <http://www.wv511.org/>

Jefferson County Emergency Communications Center (non-emergencies): 304-725-8484

Dial 9-1-1 for emergencies! Be advised, however, that first responders may not be able to immediately respond depending on adverse weather conditions

Residents should keep recommended emergency supplies on hand to be effectively prepared for extended power outages. To report power outages, residents must call Potomac Edison 1-888-LIGHTSS (1-888-544-4877) or go to firstenergycorp.com and select "Report Power Outage". If a power outage occurs, do not use candles under any circumstances because they are a fire hazard. Commercial building owners, managers, and engineers should check the emergency generators for their properties and ensure they are in proper working order. Potomac Edison often advises customers to be prepared for power outages lasting 7-10 days.

National Weather Service Office for Baltimore/Washington area: <http://www.weather.gov/lwx/>

Jefferson County Municipalities

Bolivar: 304-535-2476

Charles Town: 304-725-2311

Harpers Ferry: 304-535-2206

Ranson: 304-725-1010

Shepherdstown: 304-876-2312

Finally, before the snow starts flying, be sure to sign up for Nixle Alerts. Using the Nixle program, Jefferson County Homeland Security and Emergency Management is able to send out emergency alert notifications by text, e-mail, Twitter, and Facebook. In order to sign up for these alerts, go to <http://local.nixle.com/register> or text your Jefferson County zip code to 888777 and then text JCHSEM to the same number. This is a free service.

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