Snowstorms

In a snowstorm, the primary concerns are the potential loss of heat, power and telephone service, and a shortage of supplies if storm conditions continue for more than a day. It is important for people living in areas at risk from snowstorms to consider the need for alternative forms of heating and power generation.

- Avoid leaving home unless absolutely necessary when a snow warning is issued.
- If you have to travel make sure you are well prepared with snow chains, sleeping bags, warm clothing and essential emergency items. Check with the local council for information on road closures.
- Check with your school in case of closures.
- At home, check fuel supplies for wood-burners, gas heaters, barbeques and generators.
- Avoid using barbeques inside the house and inside very confined spaces in order to avoid gas poisoning or fires.
- Have you stocked up on food and important medicines in case you are forced to remain indoors for a long time?
- Bring pets inside. Move domestic animals and stock to shelter.
- If you are caught in your car or truck in a snowstorm, stay in your vehicle. Run the engine every ten minutes to keep warm. Drink fluids to avoid dehydration. Open the window a little to avoid carbon monoxide poisoning. Make yourself visible to rescuers by tying a bright-coloured cloth to your radio aerial or door and keeping the inside light on.