



Floyd County, Georgia

EMA

Emergency Management Agency

Winter Weather in Georgia

While the danger from winter weather varies across the state, most Georgians are likely to face some type of severe winter weather at some point in their lives. That could mean snow or subfreezing temperatures, as well as strong winds or even ice or heavy rain storms. Winter storms, which often affect North Georgia, result in extreme cold, downed power lines and blocked roads and highways.

Prepare for Winter Weather

- Make sure your home is well insulated and that you have weather stripping around your doors and window sills to keep the warm air inside.
- Make sure you have a working carbon monoxide detector.

- Familiarize yourself with the terms that are used to identify winter weather.
- Allow faucets to drip a little during cold weather to avoid freezing.
- Open cabinet doors to allow heat to get to uninsulated pipes under sinks and appliances near exterior walls.
- Fully winterize your vehicle and keep your gas tank at least half full to avoid ice in the tank and fuel lines.
- Keep an extra Ready kit in the trunk of your car. In addition to the basic essentials, consider adding a portable cell phone charger, ice scraper, extra blanket, sand for traction and jumper cables.
- Have at least one of the following heat sources in case the power goes out:
 - Extra blankets, sleeping bags, and warm winter coats
 - Fireplace with plenty of dry firewood or a gas log fireplace
 - Portable space heaters or kerosene heaters. Use electric space heaters with automatic shut-off switches and non-glowing elements. Remember to keep heat sources at least 3 feet away from furniture and drapes.

Make a Plan

- Plan to stay inside and make it on your own, at least for a period of time.
- If you have a wood burning fireplace, consider storing wood to keep you warm if winter weather knocks out your heat. Also, make sure you have your chimney cleaned and inspected every year.

- Make sure you have a cell phone with an emergency charging option (car, solar hand crank, etc.) in case of a power failure.
- Plan to check on elderly/disabled neighbors.
- Winter storms are often accompanied by power outages. Always exercise caution when using alternative light and heating sources:
- Use flashlights during power outages instead of candles to prevent the risk of fire, and have plenty of extra batteries on-hand.
- Never use an oven to heat your home. Never bring portable generators, camp stoves and grills into your home; they should only be used outside. Keep them at least 20 feet away from your home's windows, doors and vents to prevent deadly carbon monoxide poisoning. Learn more about how to safely stay warm during power outages.
- People who depend on electricity to operate medical equipment should have alternate arrangements in place in case power is out for an extended period of time.

Stay Informed

Monitor commercial radio, television and the Internet and listen to NOAA Weather Radio to stay informed of winter weather watches and warnings.