



## SAFETY BRIEF: WINTER WEATHER SAFETY

For any outdoor work, ensure you are in good communication with your project manager and that you have the appropriate PPE to keep warm and protect yourself. Work out warming locations with your project manager that are appropriate for your job site. If using monitoring equipment, ensure you read and understand the limitations and care of the instrument in winter outdoor conditions.

The following are general winter safety tips for you and your family:

Winter storms generally mean a combination of three things, snow, high winds, and extreme cold. These storms can cause many problems, for instance:

- Isolate entire areas
- Make traveling impossible
- Strand travelers
- Collapse power lines and buildings
- Reduce visibility

### TERMS TO KNOW

**Winter Storm Watch:** severe weather condition may affect your area.

**Winter Storm Warning:** severe weather conditions are imminent or occurring.

**Heavy Snow Warning:** snowfall of at least 6" in 12 hours, or 8" in 24 hours is expected.

**Blizzard Warning:** considerable falling/or blowing of snow and winds of at least 35 mph are expected for several hours.

**High Wind Warning:** sustained winds of at least 40 mph or gusts of at least 58 mph or greater are expected to last for at least one hour.

**Wind Chill Warning:** wind chills of 25° F below zero or colder.

### HOW TO PREPARE

- Keep supplies on hand, batteries, flashlight, portable radio, extra food and water, fuel for heating, a fire extinguisher, medicine, baby supplies, etc.
- Winterize your vehicle. Have extra blankets and clothing, first aid kit, flashlight, shovel, jumper cables, etc.
- In bad weather try not to travel alone, or let people know where you are going, the route you will be taking, and when you expect to arrive.

### IF CAUGHT IN A STORM

- **Outside:** Find shelter immediately, try to stay warm and dry and cover any exposed part of your body. If you cannot find shelter, protect yourself against the wind and try to build a fire.
- **In a vehicle:** Stay inside the vehicle, however you will have to exit your vehicle to check and see if your tailpipe is being blocked, but keep a hand on the vehicle at all times. Run the car every ten minutes to get some heat, but crack the window slightly so you don't get carbon monoxide poisoning. Try to move around in the car to keep your blood moving.

When the storm is over do not overexert yourself, many deaths are caused after the storm is over as a result of a person pushing their body beyond its limits. This will also cause sweating which will freeze in the cold and bring your body temperature down which could result in hypothermia.



### WINTER WEATHER SAFETY QUIZ

1. A “Winter Storm Warning” depicts severe weather conditions are imminent or occurring.  
 True  
 False
  
2. A “Wind Chill Warning” depicts wind chills of 25° F below zero or colder.  
 True  
 False
  
3. What should you do if caught in a storm while in a vehicle?
  - a. Stay in the vehicle
  - b. Run the engine every 10 minutes to receive heat
  - c. Move around in the vehicle if feasible
  - d. All of the Above
  
4. Many deaths occur after the storm due to overexertion.  
 True  
 False
  
5. You should be in direct contact with your project manager when you are on a job that involves severe winter weather conditions.  
 True  
 False

**SCORE: PASS / FAIL**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Employee Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Supervisor Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date