U.S Department of Homeland Security
536 S. Clark St.
Chicago, IL 60605-1509

The National Weather Service has issued a **BLIZZARD** warning for our region.

- When any type of severe winter weather warning* is issued:
- Stay indoors during the storm.
    - If the pipes freeze, remove any insulation or layers of newspapers and wrap pipes in rags. Completely open all faucets and pour hot water over the pipes, starting where they were most exposed to the cold (or where the cold was most likely to penetrate).
    - Learn how to shut off water valves (in case a pipe bursts).
    - Keep fire extinguishers on hand, and make sure everyone in your house knows how to use them. House fires pose an additional risk as more people turn to alternate heating sources without taking the necessary safety precautions.
    - Never use a range or an oven as a supplemental heating device. Not only is it a safety hazard, it can be a source of potentially toxic fumes.
    - Have flashlights and batteries at the ready.
    - Know ahead of time what you should do to help elderly or disabled friends, neighbors or employees.
    - Ensure your pet safety during a winter storm-limit outdoor time.
- If you must go outside:
    - Wear several layers of lightweight clothing will keep you warmer than a single heavy coat. Gloves (or mittens) and a hat will prevent loss of body heat. Cover your mouth to protect your lungs.
    - Walk carefully on snowy, icy, walkways.
- Avoid traveling by car in a storm, but if you must...
    - Carry an Emergency Supply Kit in the trunk.
    - Keep your car's gas tank full for emergency use and to keep the fuel line from freezing.
    - **Sand** to improve traction
    - **Snow shovels** and other snow removal equipment.
    - Also include **adequate clothing and blankets** to keep you warm.
    - Let someone know your destination, your route, and when you expect to arrive. If your car gets stuck along the way, help can be sent along your predetermined route.
    - Eat regularly and drink ample fluids, but avoid caffeine and alcohol.
    - Conserve fuel, if necessary, by keeping your residence cooler than normal. Temporarily close off heat to some rooms.
- Listen to your Local Officials:
    - Emergency television alerts would be forwarded via the four major network affiliates in the City (ABC 7, CBS 2, FOX 32, NBC 5) and via the City's cable-access channel, CAN-TV 21.
    - "Official" Chicago area channels for radio alerts are:
        - WBBM (780AM)
        - WGN (720AM)

***Winter Storm Warning** is issued by the National Weather Service when a winter storm is producing or is forecast to produce heavy snow or significant ice accumulations. The criteria for this warning can vary from place to place.

Winter Storm Watch is issued by the National Weather Service when there is a potential for heavy snow or significant ice accumulations, usually at least 24 to 36 hours in advance. The criteria for this watch can vary from place to place.

Winter Weather Advisory is issued by the National Weather Service when a low pressure system produces a combination of winter weather (snow, freezing rain, sleet, etc.) that present a hazard, but does not meet warning criteria.