

# SAFETY



## MATTERS

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### SEVERE WEATHER SAFETY TIPS

## Winter Storms

### Winter Storms & Extreme Cold Safety Tips:

- In case of a power failure, have an alternative way to safely heat your home or office.
- Remove insulation, open all faucets, and douse pipes with hot water to prevent pipes from freezing.
- Stock up on emergency supplies, stowing them at work, in your car, or any other place you may be stranded or snowed in. Supplies should include: a few days' worth of non-perishable food and water, a first aid kit, any essential medication, flashlights, batteries, battery-operated radio, candles and matches, tools (snow shovel, can opener), etc. Also ensure that you have sufficient heating fuel (dry, seasoned wood; kerosene oil) in case you're snowed in.
- Tune in to NOAA Weather radio, or your local radio or TV weather channel to learn about varying weather conditions.
- Minimize travel. Stay indoors as much as possible. If stranded, stay in your vehicle. Do not leave the vehicle unless help is visible within 100 yards
- Keep dry. If you get wet, change out of your clothes immediately to reduce hypothermia.
- Maintain ventilation, especially if using kerosene heaters (refuel these outdoors) or proper fireplaces.
- Assume all power lines are energized and stay well clear of any downed or damaged power lines.
- Use caution around surfaces weighed down by large amounts of snow or ice.
- When shoveling, scoop small amounts of snow and lift properly to avoid over-exertion type injuries. Clear walking surfaces of snow and ice and use salt or other de-icer as needed. Wear reflective clothing, eye, face and body protection.

For further information go to: <http://www.nws.noaa.gov/om/winter/index.shtml>.

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### Winter Storms & Extreme Cold

Winter storms can range from a moderate snow over a few hours to a blizzard with blinding, wind-driven snow that lasts for several days.

Many winter storms are accompanied by dangerously low temperatures and sometimes by strong winds, icing, sleet and freezing rain.

One of the primary concerns is winter weather's ability to knock out heat, power and communications services to your home or office, sometimes for days at a time.

For more safety resources, visit [www.NFIB.com/safetymatters](http://www.NFIB.com/safetymatters)

For information about any of Markel's Loss Control Services, please call (888) 500-3344 or email [safetymatters@markelcorp.com](mailto:safetymatters@markelcorp.com).

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