



Media Release

Director Theodore Berger
Public Information Officer Haley Williams
217-441-1480/haley.williams@Illinois.gov
Deputy Public Information Officer Melissa Hahn
217-502-3543/melissa.hahn@illinois.gov

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IEMA-OHS and National Weather Service Recognize Winter Weather Preparedness Week

SPRINGFIELD– As winter weather approaches, Illinois residents are reminded to prepare for the possibility of snow, ice, and dangerously cold temperatures. This week marks **National Winter Weather Preparedness Week**, a timely opportunity for individuals, families, and communities to plan ahead for the challenges the season can bring.

The **Illinois Emergency Management Agency and Office of Homeland Security (IEMA-OHS)** is partnering with the **National Weather Service (NWS)** to urge everyone to take simple, proactive steps now to stay safe and reduce the risks posed by severe winter weather.

“Illinois weather can shift at any moment and the best time to prepare for unpredictable weather is before it begins,” said **IEMA-OHS Acting Director Theodore “Ted” Berger**. “Simple actions such as winterizing your home, preparing an emergency kit, and insulating exposed pipes can make all the difference.”

NWS Meteorologist Ed Shimon added, “Cultivating a Weather Ready Nation is a goal of the NWS. Winter weather impacts can catch us off guard and create potentially fatal consequences. Illinois averages approximately 27 fatalities per year and thousands of injuries due to winter driving accidents. It is imperative for everyone to take seriously their preparations and planning for winter weather. Whether it be snow and ice on the roads, zero visibility in snowstorms or bitterly cold temperatures, being weather aware and ‘Weather Ready’ can save your life.”

Throughout the week, IEMA-OHS and the NWS will highlight key winter weather topics:

- **Monday:** Snow Impacts – First snow, snow squalls, and types of winter precipitation
- **Tuesday:** Icy Road Impacts – Black ice, freezing rain, and bridge safety
- **Wednesday:** Cold Weather Safety – Wind chill, hypothermia, dressing for the cold, and pet safety
- **Thursday:** Home Safety and Preparedness – Winterizing your home, power outages, and snow removal
- **Friday:** Winter Headlines – Understanding blizzards and forecast challenges

For more information on winter weather risks and how to prepare in Illinois, visit

<https://iemaohs.illinois.gov/content/dam/soi/en/web/iemaohs/preparedness/documents/severeweatherpreparedness.pdf>

Illinois Emergency Management Agency and Office of Homeland Security (IEMA-OHS):
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