



Office of the Sheriff

Charlevoix County

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BE PREPARED AND SAFE DURING EXTREME WINTER WEATHER

IMMEDIATE RELEASE FROM CHARLEVOIX COUNTY EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT:
December 22, 2022

Charlevoix County Emergency Management continues to monitor the approaching storm and is receiving regular updates from the National Weather Service. If the storm arrives as projected, we anticipate road conditions to be extremely poor and potential power outages with restoration times longer than normal. It is encouraged to tune into the local news and/or view the websites listed rather than calling your local Police dept or 911 for travel conditions.

We have warming centers ready to open if needed should extended power outages occur. Centers will be opened based upon the need, availability and announced via Emergency Notification Systems (Be-Alert/SMART 911), along with local media and social media methods.

We encourage all county residents to enroll in the county Emergency Notification System-Be-Alert/SMART911 at <https://www.smart911.com/smart911/ref/reg.action?pa=CCEOEM>.

If you are staying at home, its encouraged to prepare and have the following items on hand:

- Develop a 72-hour emergency supply kit that includes the following essential items
 - Three-day supply of food and water
 - Batter powered or hand-crank weather radio
 - Extra Blankets
 - Flashlights with extra batteries
 - Emergency Contact Information
 - Cell phones are charged
- Identify a safe alternative heat source and supply of fuel in the event of a power outage
- Stay inside during winter storms. If you must go outside, wear several layers of lightweight clothing, a hat, and gloves to prevent loss of body heat. Cover your mouth to protect your lungs.
- For those requiring oxygen, ensure you have a backup power source in case of long-term power outages.
- ****If you have a portable generator at home and plan to use it, please make sure it is located outside and far from your home to prevent carbon monoxide poisoning****

If you must travel this holiday, its encouraged to please follow these tips:

- Always have your headlights on.
 - Carry an emergency supply kit in your vehicle with essential items such as salt/kitty litter, sand, a shovel, food, blankets, and cold weather gear if you get stranded.
 - Ensure your car has the proper mix of antifreeze and water in the cooling system and that windshield washing fluid is topped off.
 - Keep tires at the car manufacturer's recommended pressure and routinely check tire pressure during cold weather.
 - Keep your cellphones charged, but DON'T text and drive.
 - Keep the fuel tank near full to prevent freezing of the fuel line.
 - When traveling, let someone know your destination, route and expected arrival time.
- Motorists are encouraged to check travel conditions and weather reports before driving. Major road closures can be found at www.michigan.gov/MiDrive. Additional resources can be found at www.michigan.gov/RoadConditions.

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