

[Rick Fraser](#), Perth County Community Emergency Management Coordinator has compiled this information for member municipalities to use to help prepare residents for the winter storm that is to come in the next few days.

The first piece is a news release from the President of the Treasury Board and Minister responsible for Emergency Management in Ontario, Prabmeet Sarkaria; [Winter is here! Let's be prepared this season](#). Here are some of the highlights:

- Keeping a winter survival kit in your car, be prepared for winter driving and always keep a winter survival kit in your car. Kits should include:
 - charged phone
 - water
 - non-perishable food
 - flashlight
 - blanket and warm clothes
 - jumper cables
 - shovel
 - traction mats or sand
 - candles and a lighter or matches
- Checking and/or building your 72 hour kit; contents can be found at EMOs [Be Prepared](#) website.
- Provincial feed that the community can monitor for awareness is [@OntarioWarnings](#) on Twitter
- If anyone is planning on travelling during any predicted weather events, they should visit [Ontario.ca/511](#) or using the 511 app available for free on the App Store and Google Play.
 - Ontario 511 allows you to plan your route by reviewing road conditions, cameras, weather, and Track My Plow to find out where plows are on provincial highways.

In addition, general Winter Storm safety tips are as follows:

- Check the Alerts for [Huron – Perth](#) via Environment Canada's site
- Avoid unnecessary travel.
- Avoid overexertion when shoveling snow by taking frequent breaks.
- When a winter storm hits, stay indoors. If you must go outside, dress for the weather. Outer clothing should be tightly woven and water-repellent. The jacket should have a hood. Wear mittens – they are warmer than gloves – and a hat, as significant body heat is lost through the head.
- If you must travel during a winter storm, do so during the day and let someone know your route and arrival time, also visit [Ontario.ca/511](#) or using the 511 app to check road conditions.
- If your car gets stuck in a blizzard or snowstorm, stay in your car. Allow fresh air in your car by opening the window slightly on the sheltered side – away from the wind. You can run the car engine about 10 minutes every half-hour if the exhaust system is not blocked with snow. Check the exhaust pipe periodically to make sure it is not blocked. Remember: you can't smell potentially fatal carbon monoxide fumes.

- If snow is excessive or a roof shows signs of distress, contact a professional who is experienced in safe snow removal procedures. Unsafe procedures may cause personal injury and structural damage. Prevent access to areas under roofs where snow could fall.
- If you live on a farm, shelter animals. Generally, if the structure is sound, animals should be placed indoors. Once they are inside, secure all openings to the outside. Water supplies should be checked to ensure they have not frozen.

Winter Fire Safety tips

- If the power goes out, never use your oven, propane heaters, or not approved heating devices to heat your home
- In heavy snow events, check the furnace and/or water heater exhaust outside the home to make sure they are not covered by snow or ice
- If you use space heaters:
 - Space heaters and extension cords must have a Canadian Standards Association (CSA) label.
 - Keep all heaters at least 1 metre (3 feet) away from anything flammable such as paper, drapes, loose clothes, furniture, bedding and wallpaper.
 - Never place clothes on a heater to dry.
 - Avoid leaving heaters on when you leave the house or go to bed.
 - Keep children well away from heaters.