



Yadkin County Fire Marshal's Office



January

Prevention Bulletin

2026

XX



Home fires occur more in winter than in any other season. As you stay cozy and warm this winter, be fire smart!



Half of all home heating fires occur in December, January and February.



1 in every 7 home fires and 1 in every 5 home fire deaths involves heating equipment.



Keep anything that can burn at least 3 feet from any heat source like fireplaces, wood stoves, radiators or space heaters.



Keep portable generators outside, away from windows, and as far away from your home as possible.



Install and test carbon monoxide alarms at least once a month.



Plug only 1 heat-producing appliance (like a space heater) into an electrical outlet at a time.



Have a qualified professional clean and inspect your chimney and vents every year.



Store cooled ashes in a tightly covered metal container, and keep it outside at least 10 feet from your home and any nearby buildings.

Carbon Monoxide Safety



Often called the invisible killer, carbon monoxide is an invisible, odorless, colorless gas created when fuels (such as gasoline, wood, coal, natural gas, propane, oil, and methane) burn incompletely. In the home, heating and cooking equipment that burn fuel can be sources of carbon monoxide.

- CO alarms should be installed in a central location outside each sleeping area and on every level of the home and in other locations where required by applicable laws, codes or standards. For the best protection, interconnect all CO alarms throughout the home. When one sounds, they all sound.
- Follow the manufacturer's instructions for placement and mounting height.
- Choose a CO alarm that is listed by a qualified testing laboratory.
- Call your local fire department's non-emergency number to find out what number to call if the CO alarm sounds.
- Test CO alarms at least once a month; replace them according to the manufacturer's instructions.
- If the audible trouble signal sounds, check for low batteries. If the battery is low, replace it. If it still sounds, call the fire department.
- If the CO alarm sounds, immediately move to a fresh air location outdoors or by an open window or door. Make sure everyone inside the home is accounted for. Call for help from a fresh air location and stay there until emergency personnel declare that it is safe to re-enter the home.
- If you need to warm a vehicle, remove it from the garage immediately after starting it. Do not run a vehicle or other fueled engine or motor indoors, even if garage doors are open. Make sure the exhaust pipe of a running vehicle is not covered with snow.
- During and after a snowstorm, make sure vents for the dryer, furnace, stove, and fireplace are clear of snow build-up.
- A generator should be used in a well-ventilated location outdoors away from windows, doors and vent openings.
- Gas or charcoal grills can produce CO — only use outside.

HOME HEATING EQUIPMENT



Have fuel-burning heating equipment and chimneys inspected by a professional every year before cold weather sets in. When using a fireplace, open the flue for adequate ventilation. Never use your oven to heat your home.

FACTS

- ! A person can be poisoned by a small amount of CO over a longer period of time or by a large amount of CO over a shorter amount of time.
- ! In 2010, U.S. fire departments responded to an estimated 80,100 non-fire CO incidents in which carbon monoxide was found, or an average of nine calls per hour.



NATIONAL FIRE PROTECTION ASSOCIATION
The leading information and knowledge resource
on fire, electrical and related hazards

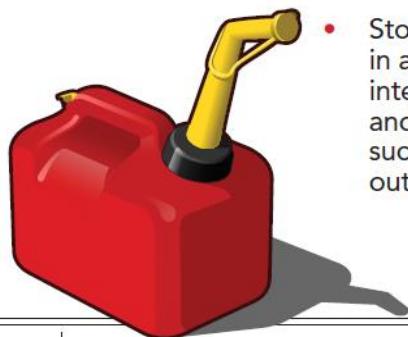




Generator Safety

Downed utility lines, power company blackouts, heavy snow falls or summer storms can all lead to power outages. Many people turn to a portable generator for a temporary solution without knowing the risks.

- Generators should be used in well ventilated locations outside at least 5 feet away from all doors, windows, and vent openings. Measure the 5-foot distance from the generator exhaust system to the building.
- Never use a generator in an attached garage, even with the door open.
- Place generators so that exhaust fumes can't enter the home through windows, doors or other openings in the building. The exhaust must be directed away from the building.
- Make sure to install carbon monoxide (CO) alarms in your home. Follow manufacturer's instructions for correct placement and mounting height.
- Turn off generators and let them cool down before refueling. Never refuel a generator while it is hot.
- Store fuel for the generator in a container that is intended for the purpose and is correctly labeled as such. Store the containers outside of living areas.



Just Remember...

When plugging in appliances, make sure they are plugged directly into the generator or a heavy duty outdoor-rated extension cord. The cords should be checked for cuts, tears and that the plug has all three prongs, especially a grounding pin.

If you must connect the generator to the house wiring to power appliances, have a qualified electrician install a properly rated transfer switch in accordance with the National Electrical Code® (NEC) and all applicable state and local electrical codes.

FACT

- ! CO deaths associated with generators have spiked in recent years as generator sales have risen.



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Stay Safe on Winter Roads

Whether it's snow, sleet or ice, winter weather can cause extremely dangerous road conditions. In 2020, there were 374 fatal crashes, and an estimated 25,000 injury crashes that occurred in wintry conditions. Preparing yourself – and your vehicle – for winter weather is key. When winter weather creates hazardous driving conditions, stay off the roads. If you must drive, travel during the day; do not travel alone; keep others informed of your schedule; and, stay on main roads.

Follow these and other tips for driving in winter conditions from the [National Highway Traffic Safety Administration](#) (NHTSA):

- Drive slowly. It is harder to control or stop your vehicle on a slick or snow-covered surface. Increase your following distance so that you will have plenty of time to stop for vehicles ahead of you.
- Know what kind of brakes your vehicle has and how to use them properly. If you have antilock brakes, apply firm, continuous pressure. If you do not have antilock brakes, pump the brakes gently.
- If you find yourself in a skid, stay calm and ease your foot off the gas while carefully steering in the direction you want the front of your vehicle to go. Continue to stay off the pedals (gas and brake) until you can regain control of your vehicle.

Navigating Around Snow Plows

- Do not crowd a snow plow or travel beside it. Snow plows travel slowly, make wide turns, stop often, overlap lanes, and exit the road frequently.
- The road behind an active snow plow is safer to drive on because it is clear.
- When you drive behind a snow plow, do not follow, or stop too closely. Snowplows can throw up a cloud of snow that can reduce your visibility to zero in less time than you can react. Never drive into a snow cloud – it can conceal vehicles or hazards.

Learn more about winter driving with the NHTSA's [Winter Driving Tips](#).





Winter Travel



Road Trip Safety Tips

SHARE YOUR TRAVEL PLANS
WITH FRIENDS OR FAMILY

WINTERIZE YOUR VEHICLE

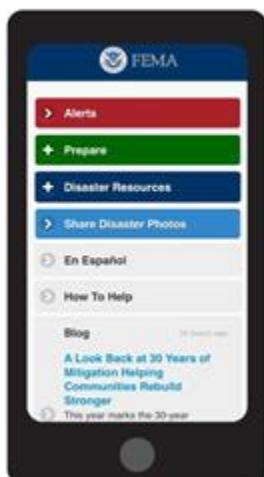
PACK AN EMERGENCY
SUPPLY KIT

CHECK ROAD CONDITIONS

GET THE WEATHER FORECAST



Got a new tablet or smartphone? Visit <https://www.fema.gov/mobile-app> to download emergency preparedness apps and set up the emergency contact feature on your phone.



Receive **real-time alerts** from the National Weather Service for up to five locations nationwide.



Learn **emergency safety tips** for over 20 types of disasters, including earthquakes, fires, hurricanes, tornadoes and more.



Locate open **emergency shelters** in your area and find **disaster recovery centers** where you can talk to FEMA in person.



Toggle between **English** and **Spanish**.

Slip-and-Fall Safety Tips for Winter Weather



Watch out for black ice



Wear shoes with good traction



Use your cane or walker if you have one



Make use of handrails when available



Take short, small steps



Clean caked snow and ice out of the tread of your shoes



Bend slightly forward to place your center of gravity over your feet



Keep your hands out of your pockets for better balance



Winter Weather Tips

for your four-legged friends!

It's a common belief that dogs and cats are resistant to cold weather because of their fur, but it's untrue. Like people, cats and dogs are susceptible to frostbite and hypothermia.

1. Keep Pets Inside

Longer-haired and thick-coated dog breeds, such as huskies and other dogs bred for colder climates, are more tolerant of cold weather; but no pet should be left outside for long periods of time in below-freezing weather.

2. Provide Choices

Just like you, pets prefer comfortable sleeping places and may change their location based on their need for more or less warmth. Give them some safe options to allow them to vary their sleeping place to adjust to their needs.

3. Make Some NOISE!

A warm vehicle engine can be an appealing heat source for outdoor and feral cats, but it's deadly. Check underneath your car, bang on the hood, and honk the horn before starting the engine to encourage feline hitchhikers to abandon their roost under the hood.

4. Play Dress Up!

If your dog has a short coat or seems bothered by the cold weather, consider a sweater or dog coat. Have several on hand, so you can use a dry sweater or coat each time your dog goes outside. Wet sweaters or coats can actually make your dog colder. Some pet owners also use booties to protect their dog's feet; if you choose to use them, make sure they fit properly.

5. Provide Shelter

We don't recommend keeping any pet outside for long periods of time, but if you are unable to keep your dog inside during cold weather, provide them with a warm, dry, solid shelter against wind. If you're able to, consider providing shelters for stray cats in the neighborhood.

6. Be Prepared

Cold weather also brings the risks of severe winter weather, blizzards and power outages. Prepare a disaster/emergency kit, and include your pet in your plans. Have enough food, water and medicine (including any prescription medications as well as heartworm and flea/tick preventives) on hand to get through at least 5 days.



thatpetplace.com

Information provided by the AVMA at <https://www.avma.org/public/PetCare/Pages/Cold-weather-pet-safety.aspx>

Mind your head.

When working outdoors, wear a hardhat to protect your head against falling snow or ice and in the event that you slip on icy surfaces.



Make yourself visible.

Wear a reflective vest and carry a flashlight when working or walking around trucks, heavy duty equipment or forklifts.



Mop up.

Snow and ice can melt on floors inside workplace entrances, creating a slipping hazard. Post warning signs, place a doormat at each entrance and keep the floor areas clean and dry.



6

Drive with extra care.



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Equip your car with good snow tires with plenty of tread. Slow down and maintain a greater distance between your vehicle and traffic ahead.

8 TIPS

FOR WORKING SAFELY IN WINTER

Breathe freely.



7

Never operate a gasoline-powered generator or fuel-burning heater indoors. If operating machinery with internal combustion engines, don't close the bay doors to conserve heat. It can result in carbon monoxide poisoning.

Stay warm.

Learn the dangers of hypothermia and frostbite. In cold weather conditions, consider the wind chill factor, dress warmly in layers and take frequent warm-up breaks.



3



Be prepared.

Pack an emergency kit in your vehicle, including a fully charged cell phone, blankets, matches, a distress sign, flares, snacks, water, shovel, sand and first aid supplies.



5

Don't skate over safety.

Keep outdoor walkways clear and sprinkled with sand. Wear slip-resistant footwear, take shorter steps and slow down when walking over slippery surfaces.



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YADKIN COUNTY



EMERGENCY SERVICES

The Yadkin County Fire Marshal's Office is proud to serve the citizens of Yadkin County by promoting the importance of fire safety through education, inspections, and investigations. The Fire Marshal's Office functions under the direction of the emergency services director.

The Fire Marshal's Office is responsible for various duties, which include:

- County Fire Inspection Program
- Fire / arson investigations
- Budget preparation
- Coordination between county government and county fire departments
- Fire prevention programs
- Response to emergency situations

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