

Protective Measures/Talking Points

03/3/2014

HAVE A PLAN

- **Before a storm, prepare to shelter in place.**
 - Keep a three-to-five-day supply of nonperishable food and water on hand, along with a non-electric can opener, and in the event of a power outage, have on hand a battery powered radio, flashlight and extra batteries.
 - Special items for infants, the elderly or disabled family member.
 - Make sure you have snow shovels and ice melting chemicals.
- **This could be a dangerous storm. Prepare to shelter in place and drive only if it is absolutely necessary.**
 - Weather conditions will make the roadways extremely hazardous.
 - Crews working to clear the roads need as much room as possible to maneuver vehicles and equipment; stay off the roads during the storm to facilitate the crews clearing the roads.
 - Visibility could be bad at times.
 - Black ice may be present on the roadways.
 - If you must drive, consider the following:
 - Travel during the day and keep others informed of your schedule.
 - Stay on main roads; avoid back roads and alleys.
 - Fill up your gas tank.
 - **Dress for the weather.** Wear several layers of loose fitting, lightweight; warm clothing rather than one layer of heavy clothing. Wear mittens, a hat and cover your mouth with a scarf to protect your lungs.

BE AWARE AND STAY INFORMED

- Monitor the weather. Listen to your radio or watch your local TV stations for weather reports and emergency information and updates.
- A **Snow Emergency** has been declared for Monday, March 3rd. **DO NOT** park your car on Snow Emergency Routes. Vehicles parked on these streets are subject to a **\$250 fine** and or/towing. Snow Emergency will be in effect at 7 am.
- Call Pepco's 24-Hour Outage Report Line at 1 (877) 737-2662.
- Call the Mayor's City Wide Call Center at 3-1-1 to report downed trees and to receive information about City services.
- Visit the National Weather Service (NWS)
- Visit www.dc.gov for updates on District Government and DC Public School
- **Sign up** for emergency alerts via **Alert DC** - www.alert.dc.gov

AFTER THE STORM

- Shovel snow in small amounts to avoid exhaustion and possible injuries.
- **Check on others — help neighbors.** Especially check on those who are elderly or at risk, to ensure they are safe.
- **Clear snow and ice from sidewalks and steps next to your home and/or business.** D.C. law requires residents to remove snow from sidewalks and steps within eight hours of daylight after the snow stops.

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- **Watch for signs of frostbite**—skin appears white and waxy, numbness or no feeling in that area and/or possible blisters.
- **Watch for signs of hypothermia**—shivering and numbness, confusion or dizziness, stumbling and weakness, slow or slurred speech and shock.
- **Hypothermia Hotline** – if you notice a homeless person stranded in the cold, **call 1 (800) 535-7252**

MORE INFORMATION ON DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA WINTER STORM PREPAREDNESS

- www.dc.gov
- www.snow.dc.gov
- <http://hsema.dc.gov/page/winter-storm>