

How to be Prepared for Winter Weather

10/25/2023

Ready.gov, an official website of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security has resources to help you and your loved ones prepare for bad weather and provides information to create emergency preparedness plans and understand emergency weather alerts and warnings. The Disaster and Emergencies website can be found at Ready.gov [ready.gov/be-informed](https://www.ready.gov/be-informed)

For current weather forecasts go to the local National Weather Service (NWS) located in Gaylord, MI which has up-to-date real-time weather forecasts and extensive information on weather conditions. bit.ly/NWS_SB

The local NWS office is at: weather.gov/apx and weather conditions can be entered for your exact location to determine what type of weather is forecasted and provides preparedness tips and educational information to keep you informed and up to date on the latest changes in the weather. The information on NWS is free and National Weather Service (NWS) has extensive winter preparedness information on their website on steps to take for winter weather safety as statistics show 25% of people are caught unprepared for storms and 70% result in automobile fatalities related to ice and snow. Visit weather.gov/safety/winter-education to learn how you can be prepared for winter conditions.

Winter Storm Supplies bit.ly/FEMA_PAWSS

Before winter approaches, make sure you have these additional emergency supplies:

Extra clothing, blankets, and sleeping bags. Ensure you have enough clothing, hats, mittens, and blankets or sleeping bags for everything in the house.

Items for snow and ice: rock salt to melt ice on walkways, sand or kitty litter to improve traction, and snow shovels or other snow removal equipment.

Wood: store a supply of dry, seasoned wood if you have a working fireplace or wood burning stove with a safe flue or vent.

Build an emergency supply kit for your car: first aid kit, jumper cables, full tank of gas, cell phone and cell phone charger, shovel, ice scraper, snow brush, sand/cat litter, warm clothing & blanket, water and snacks, tire chains, tow rope, and flares.

Mittens are more effective than gloves because mittens keep your fingers in closer contact.

Sand and other abrasives improve vehicle traction on snow- and ice-covered roads. They can be used at all temperatures and are especially valuable when it is too cold for chemical deicers to work.

Cover all exposed parts of the body. Wear layered clothing and wear a hat and a scarf, covering your mouth to protect your face and to help prevent loss of body heat. Wear mittens, which are warmer than gloves.

American Red Cross has free Weather Emergency App to help you prepare with step by step guides that are easy to use. Go to American Red Cross Weather App: rdcrss.org/3MgrVd2 . The guides can be customized with 40 different weather alerts with fast notifications.

NOAA EMERGENCY CONDITIONS - bit.ly/WWA_HWO

SIX COUNTY SERVICE AREA EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT INFORMATION

Visit each county emergency management webpage to learn about emergency preparedness and how you can sign up for emergency alerts in your county.

ANTRIM COUNTY

Matthew Adamek, Antrim County Emergency Operations Director
PO Box 333
Bellaire, MI 49615
Office: 231-533-6569
Fax: 231-533-5803
Email: adamekm@antrimcounty.org
Email: emergencymanagement@antrimcounty.org

- RAVE Alert System for warnings - emergencymanagement@antrimcounty.org
- Antrim County Facebook: www.facebook.com/antrimemergencymanagement or <https://www.getrave.com>

BENZIE COUNTY

Rebecca S. Hubers PEM FLO
Benzie County Emergency Management Coordinator
448 Court Place – Suite 134
Beulah, MI 49617
Office: 231-882-0567
Fax: 231-882-0568
E-mail rhubers@benzieco.net
web site: <http://www.benzieco.net>
Facebook: BenzieOEM



- CodeRED system for warnings - https://bit.ly/CRWW_Benzie Click to learn more about receiving emergency alert messages from Benzie County Office of Emergency Management - https://bit.ly/CRWW_Benzie

CHARLEVOIX

Sienna Wenz, Local Emergency Management Coordinator
Charlevoix County Emergency Management

1000 Grant Street
Charlevoix, MI 49720
Office: 231-547-4461
Phone: 231-676-2462
Fax: 231-547-6720
Email: wenzs@charlevoixcounty.org

- BeAlert* Emergency Notification System & Smart911 For Charlevoix, Cheboygan and Emmet Counties - bit.ly/Smart911_BeAlert

GRAND TRAVERSE

Gregg Bird, Local Emergency Management Coordinator
2600 LaFranier Road, Suite A
Traverse City, MI 49686
Office: 231-995-6059
Fax: 231-995-6139
Email - gbird@gtcountymi.gov

- CodeRED system for warnings – bit.ly/CodeRed_GT
- The CodeRED system will be used to send critical communications, from evacuation notices to missing child alerts.

LEELANAU

Matt Ansonge, Emergency Management Director
Leelanau County Office of Emergency Management/9-1-1
8525 E. Government Center Drive
Suttons Bay, MI 49682
Office: 231-256-8775
Fax: 231-256-8701
Email: mansonage@leelanau.gov or <http://www.leelanau.gov/emergencymgmt.asp>

- CodeRED system for warnings - bit.ly/CodeRed_Lee

MANISTEE

Alvin Rischel, Manistee County Emergency Manager
1525 E. Parkdale Ave.
Manistee, MI 49660
Office: 231-723-9970
Fax: 231-723-1498
9-1-1- Non-emergency line: 231-723-6241
Email: arischel@manistee911.org

- CodeRED system for warnings - bit.ly/CodeRed_Manistee

GRAND TRAVERSE BAND

Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians (GTB)

Emergency Management Office

Jolanda Murphy, GTB Public Safety Department Manager / Emergency Manager Coordinator

2605 N. West Bay Shore Drive, Peshawbestown, MI 49682

Email: Jolanda.Murphy@gtb-nsn.gov

Office: 231-534-7111

Cell: 231-866-1165

Fax: 231-534-7639

GTB Tribal Police Department

2300 N. Stallman Road

Peshawbestown, MI 49682

Tribal Police: 231-534-7777

Fax: 231-534-7639

- **Grand Traverse Band Emergency Notification system:** Regroup Emergency Alerts
bit.ly/GTB_TM_Regroup

NON-EMERGENCY PHONE #'s for Central Dispatch 9-1-1

- GTB Tribal Police (231) 534-7777
- Antrim County (231) 533-8627 #0
- Benzie County (231) 882-4487
- Charlevoix County (231) 439-3500
- Grand Traverse County: (231) 922-4550
- Leelanau County (231) 256-8800
- Manistee County (231) 723-6241

LIST OF WINTER WEATHER ALERTS

Protective Actions bit.ly/FEMA_WSAW

Alerts are issued by regional NWS and may vary by region. NWS alerts for winter weather can be found on <https://www.weather.gov/apx>

- **Winter Weather Advisory:** when conditions are expected to cause significant inconveniences that may be hazardous.
- **Winter Storm Watch:** severe winter conditions may affect your area, but the location and timing are still uncertain; issued 12 to 36 hours in advance of a potential storm.
- **Winter Storm Warning:** 4 or more inches of snow or sleet are expected in the next 12 hours, or 6 or more inches in 24 hours, or ¼ inch or more of ice accumulation is expected. The NWS may also issue a warning if the storm is expected to hit during high-traffic times.

RESOURCES for Emergency Preparedness:

- Ready.gov - An official website of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security - <https://www.ready.gov/be-informed>
- FEMA Shelter-in-Place Pictogram: https://www.fema.gov/sites/default/files/documents/fema_shelter-in-place_guidance.pdf
- Do 1 Thing website: <https://www.do1thing.com/>
- Winter Weather Ready.Gov - <http://www.ready.gov/winter-weather>
- NWS Weather Ready Nation - https://www.weather.gov/wrn/infographics_winter
- National Weather Service - Prepare! Don't Let a Winter Storm Take You by Surprise <https://www.weather.gov/safety/winter-before>
- American Red Cross - <https://www.redcross.org/>
- Salvation Army – <https://centralusa.salvationarmy.org/traversecity/>
- United Way of Northwest Michigan – <https://unitedwaynwmi.org/efsp/>