

November 2007

Emergency Preparedness Pointers

What's the Weather?



Quite often we hear weather reports from the National Weather Service that use a variety of phrases to tell us what the weather is going to be. The question that remains is, "What do they mean by that?"



* **Percent chance of rain** - This can be a confusing way to talk about future weather. A 30% chance of rain does not mean that it will rain tomorrow in 30% of the forecast area or that it will rain 30% of the time. It does mean that when the weather conditions are like they are today, at least a minimum amount of rain (such as .01 in.) will fall the next day in 3 out of 10 cases. That means there is a 3 in 10 chance that there will be some precipitation, somewhere in the forecasted area.

As we prepare for our winter activities we must be aware of what the winter storm forecasts mean.

* **Winter weather outlook** - Issued when significant winter precipitation is possible in the next 3 to 5 days.

* **Winter weather watch** - Issued when significant winter precipitation is possible in the next 24 to 48 hours.



* **Winter weather advisory** - Issued for winter precipitation that is not expected to produce significant risks to life and/or property, but that could still impact travel or other activities.

* **Winter weather warning** - Issued when winter precipitation that could lead to a threat to life or property is expected. A warning is the most serious of the winter weather messages and indicates that action should be taken immediately to get ready for the storm.

HAVE A SAFE, ENJOYABLE WINTER SEASON AND...



Prepare your home for possible isolation during a severe winter storm.

You should have emergency heating equipment (fireplaces, wood burning stoves or space heaters) and ample fuel so you can keep at least one room of your house warm enough to be livable. Always make sure to have proper ventilation to avoid CO build up in the room.

Prepare your vehicle for winter travel.

- Check your wipers, tires, lights, and fluid levels (radiator, windshield washer, power steering, oil and brakes) regularly. Make sure the brakes and transmission are working properly. Lubricate door and trunk locks with lock lubricant to prevent them from freezing.
- Carry a Winter Storm Survival Kit your vehicle that includes:

- Blankets/sleeping bags
- Flashlight with extra batteries
- Sack of sand (or cat litter)
- Tire Chains/Plastic tarp
- Jumper cables
- High calorie, non-perishable food
- First-aid kit
- Extra clothing to keep dry
- Shovel/ Toolkit/ Tow Rope
- Windshield scraper and brush
- Compass and road maps
- Water container/Bottled Water



For local current weather information go to:
<http://www.wrh.noaa.gov/boi>



Ada City -County Emergency Management
7200 Barrister Drive ♦ Boise, ID. 83704 ♦ (208) 577-4750 ♦ FAX (208) 577-4759
HOME PAGE: www.accem.org ♦ E-MAIL: pmarusich@adaweb.net