



# SNOW / COLD WEATHER



The weather in Illinois can change quickly, especially during the winter season. Strong winter storms can easily bring large amounts of snow and ice, along with blowing snow and whiteout conditions.

Exposure to the outside cold temperatures, vehicle accidents caused by slick roads, or fires resulting from the improper use of heaters, many people are injured or killed each year as a direct result of winter weather. Winter storms range from a moderate snow over a few hours to a massive blizzard with blinding, wind-driven snow that lasts for several days.

The greatest snowfall on record from a single storm was 27.9 inches measured near Waukegan in Lake County, from January 3-5, 2015.

## TIPS FOR SNOW/COLD WEATHER

- Dress in layers by wearing several layers of loose-fitting, lightweight, warm clothing rather than one layer of heavy clothing. The outer garments should be tightly woven and water repellent.
- Avoid overexertion when shoveling snow as it can increase the risk of a heart attack. Take frequent breaks and stay hydrated.
- Make sure your home heating system serviced professionally to ensure that it is clean and working/ventilated properly.
- Check your smoke/carbon monoxide (CO) detectors. The dangers of CO poisoning is greater during winter storms when doors and windows stay closed and fireplaces and gas heaters are in use.
- You can also be exposed to deadly CO levels when “warming up” your car in the garage or when snow covers your tail pipe.
- Home preparation should include insulation, caulking, and weather stripping.
- Check road conditions before setting out ([gettingaroundillinois.com](http://gettingaroundillinois.com)) and keep your vehicle fueled up.
- A winter travel preparedness kit could include a cell phone charger, blankets, extra clothing, jumper cables, flashlights with extra batteries, water, and high-calorie, non-perishable food.

[Ready.Illinois.gov](http://Ready.Illinois.gov)



State of Illinois

Illinois Emergency Management Agency and Office of Homeland Security



@ReadyIllinois



ReadyIllinois



@ReadyIllinois



@ReadyIllinois



2200 S. Dirksen Parkway  
Springfield, Illinois 62703  
IEMA Main Office (217) 782-2700  
24-hour Response (217) 782-7860