

KOAM
NEWS NOW  .COM



WINTER WEATHER TIPS

Definitions & Safety

DEFINITIONS

WINTER STORM WARNING

A significant weather event including snow, ice, sleet, or blowing snow or a combination of these is **LIKELY** within the next 12 to 36 hours; considerable travel problems are to be expected.

BLIZZARD WARNING

A significant weather event where wind gusts equal to or higher than 35 mph are accompanied by falling and/or blowing snow frequently dropping visibility to less than ¼ mile for 3 hours or more; severe winter weather likely or already occurring; travel is not advised.

WINTER STORM WATCH

A significant weather event including snow, ice, sleet, or blowing snow or a combination of these is **POSSIBLE** within the next 12 to 48 hours; considerable travel problems are to be expected.

WINTER WEATHER ADVISORY

Snow, blowing snow, ice, sleet or a combination of these events are expected but amounts aren't expected, or conditions aren't expected to meet warning criteria; use caution when driving.

WIND CHILL

A measure in degrees of how cold people feel due to the combined effect of wind and cold temperatures; based on the rate of heat loss from exposed skin.

WIND CHILL ADVISORY

Issued when low wind chill temperatures are expected but won't reach local warning criteria.

WIND CHILL WATCH

Issued when there is a potential for extremely cold air and strong winds to create dangerously low wind chill values.

WIND CHILL WARNING

Issued for a combination of very cold air and strong winds that will create dangerously low wind chill values; wind chill values in a warning will result in frostbite or hypothermia if precautions aren't taken.

SLEET

Rain that turns to ice pellets before reaching the ground; sleet also causes moisture on roads to freeze and become slippery.

FREEZING RAIN

Rain that freezes when it hits the ground; also creates a coating of ice on roads, walkways, trees and power lines.

BLACK ICE

Patchy ice on roadways or other surfaces that cannot easily be seen; often clear with the black road surface visible underneath. This is most prevalent during the early morning hours after snow melt on the roadways get a chance to refreeze overnight with below freezing temperatures. Black ice can also form when roadways are slick from rain and temperatures drop below freezing overnight.

TIPS & SAFETY

STAYING WARM WHEN THE POWER IS OUT AT HOME:

- ▶ Close the blinds or curtains to keep in some heat.
- ▶ Close off rooms to avoid wasting heat.
- ▶ Wear layers of loose-fitting, lightweight, warm clothing.
- ▶ Eat and drink. Food provides energy to warm the body. Avoid caffeine and alcohol.
- ▶ Stuff towels or rags in cracks under doors.

BEFORE YOU TRAVEL WITH POSSIBLE WINTER WEATHER:

- ▶ Share your travel plans with family/friends including where you're going and when you expect to arrive.
- ▶ Be sure you have the latest forecast and road conditions.
- ▶ Pack an emergency supply kit (mobile phone, charger, batteries, blankets, flashlight, first-aid kit, non-perishable & high-calorie food, candles to melt snow for drinking water, sand or cat litter for traction, shovel, scraper and battery booster cables).
- ▶ Make sure your vehicle is winterized and ready to go (battery, wipers, coolant and other systems affected by cold temperatures).



**SKYWATCH
WEATHER**

METEOROLOGISTS
**DOUG HEADY
& NICK KELLEY**