

# Winter Storm Power Outage

Hazardous conditions due to snow and ice are a major concern for Hoosiers. The Indiana Department of Homeland Security issues the following information in preparation for expected severe weather.

## Health Risks

- ◆ People, pets, and livestock are susceptible to frostbite and hypothermia during winter storms.
- ◆ Those at risk are primarily either engaged in outdoor activity (shoveling snow, digging out vehicles, or assisting stranded motorists), or are the elderly or very young.
- ◆ Citizens' use of generators, kerosene heaters and alternative forms of heating may create other hazards such as fires and carbon monoxide poisoning.
- ◆ Remove wet clothing. Working up a sweat shoveling your driveway or trying to dislodge a vehicle can cause hypothermia if you do not change into dry clothing.

## Candle Safety

The Indiana Department of Homeland Security does NOT recommend using a candle as a heat or light source. If you do plan to use them, please follow the safety tips provided.

- ◆ Use a flashlight, not a candle, for emergency lighting.
- ◆ Never leave a burning candle unattended.
- ◆ Extinguish candles before leaving a room, leaving your home or going to sleep.
- ◆ Keep candles at least 12 inches away from anything that can burn, including decorations, paper, wreaths and bows.
- ◆ Keep all candles, matches and lighters out of reach of children and pets.
- ◆ Make sure lit candles are not in places where they can be accidentally knocked over.
- ◆ Use sturdy, non-flammable candle holders that will collect dripping wax.
- ◆ Trim wicks to 1/2 inch. Long or crooked wicks can cause uneven burning and dripping.
- ◆ Extinguish candles when they burn down to within two inches of their holder or decorations.
- ◆ To avoid hot wax spatter, blow out a candle by holding your finger in front of the flame and blow at it. The air will flow around your finger and extinguish the candle from both sides, preventing spatter.

## Alternative Heating Tips

- ◆ Maintain 3 feet of space between things that can burn and heating equipment. This includes draperies, blankets, clothing, bedding, etc.
- ◆ Keep alternative heaters properly ventilated. Carbon monoxide can build up to dangerous levels in any small, enclosed space.
- ◆ Use the proper grade of fuel for your liquid-fueled space heater, and never use gasoline in any heater not approved for gasoline use. Refuel only in a well-ventilated area and when the equipment is cool.
- ◆ Use only dry, seasoned wood in a fireplace or wood stove to avoid the build-up of creosote, an oily deposit that easily catches fire and accounts for most chimney fires and the largest share of home heating fires. Use only paper or kindling wood, not a flammable liquid, to start the fire. Do not use artificial logs in wood stoves.
- ◆ Make sure your fireplace has a sturdy screen to prevent sparks from flying into the room. Allow fireplace and woodstove ashes to cool before disposing in a metal container, which is kept a safe distance from your home.
- ◆ Turn off space heaters whenever the room they are in is unoccupied or under circumstances when manufacturer's instructions say they should be turned off.
- ◆ Do not use your oven to heat your home.
- ◆ Make sure fuel-burning equipment is vented to the outside, that the venting is kept clear and unobstructed, and that the exit point is properly

