The Hoosier state recorded its second snowiest March day during the 2017 Winter Storm Uma. Every winter in Indiana is not severe, but weather can change quickly. Preparation will help keep everyone ready for whatever the weather throws at them.

**TERMS TO KNOW**

- **Watch:** Winter weather is possible.
- **Warning:** Severe winter weather will begin soon.
- **Advisory:** Winter weather will begin soon, but conditions are less serious than a warning.

**FOR THE HOME**

Someone doesn’t have to be outside to be affected by winter weather. Staying safe while indoors is important too.

- Monitor local radio, TV stations and social media websites for weather updates.
- Create an emergency preparedness kit.
- Stock up on non-perishable food and water in the event of a power outage or being snowed in.
- Make sure homes are well insulated to avoid the need of an alternative heat source.
- If alternative heat sources are needed, follow the manufacturer’s instructions and always turn them off before going to bed or leaving home.
- Keep a fire extinguisher on hand in the event of a fire due to cooking or an alternative heating source.
- Know how to shut off water valves properly if a pipe were to burst due to extreme cold.
- Bring pets indoors or ensure they have a warm shelter area with unfrozen water.
- Take breaks often when shoveling snow. Approximately 100 people die every year from heart attacks they endured while shoveling snow.
- Change into dry clothes after outdoor activities to prevent frostbite.
POWER OUTAGES

Winter weather can impact electric utilities. If the power goes out, it is important to follow these tips until professionals can make repairs.

- Notify the electric utility company right away.
- Gather everyone in the most insulated and interior room available.
- Turn off and unplug most electronic devices to avoid a power surge. Leave one light on to know when the power has been restored.
- Check travel conditions before determining if evacuation is necessary. If leaving the home, take medications and other must-need items, along with extra clothing, to a friend or family member’s house, or a nearby shelter.
- Consider taking the time to check on neighbors, especially those with medical conditions.

FOR THE CAR

Driving during winter weather should be avoided as much as possible. However, when it can’t be, follow these tips to stay safe.

- Fill a vehicle’s gasoline tank before a winter storm because the fuel will have a lower chance of freezing.
- Before cold weather hits, mechanics should check the vehicle’s brakes, heater, defroster, tires and windshield wipers.
- Do not attempt to drive during a winter storm.
- Create an emergency preparedness kit for each vehicle.
- If stranded, do not exit the vehicle to find help unless it’s within 100 yards.
- Display a bright piece of clothing to signal for help.
- Floor mats can be used for extra insulation.
- To prevent carbon monoxide poisoning, never run vehicles more than 10 minutes each hour, and make sure the tailpipe is not blocked.

VEHICLE EMERGENCY KIT CHECKLIST

Use this list as a guide when preparing emergency kits for every vehicle.

- Portable phone charger
- Extra blankets or a sleeping bag
- Jumper cables
- Flashlight and extra batteries
- First aid kit
- Ice scraper and snow brush
- Bag of sand
- Non-perishable, high-protein food
- Water
- Spare clothes, mittens, scarves, hats
- Shovel