Hazardous condition 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