

NEWS RELEASE

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More winter weather tips

Richland, Wash.—Benton County Emergency Services (BCES) reminds local residents that precautions should be taken to deal with the cold and snow this week. Here are some tips that might help during this period of wintry weather:

- Stay home if you can. If you must drive, remember to use extra caution, especially in approaching intersections. Your stopping distances significantly increase on slick roadways.
- There are a lot of snowplows on the roads. Give them lots of room to do their job.
- Outside activities can be fun, but keep direct exposure to sub-freezing temperatures to a minimum. Dress in layers and cover your ears, head and hands.
- Maintain your emergency supplies kit with a flashlight and extra batteries, a battery-powered radio, extra non-perishable food and water, extra medicines and baby items, and first-aid supplies. Also, keep emergency supplies such as blankets, water, and a shovel in your car.
- Top off the fuel tank in your car, check the antifreeze, and use proper traction devices.
- Freezing temperatures can burst both hot and cold water pipes in homes that lack heat or proper insulation in crawl spaces. Wrap exposed pipes or take other measures to insulate them from the cold. You can also close the air vents that allow cold air to enter your crawlspaces.
- And finally, only call 9-1-1 when you need **immediate** response from fire, police or medical personnel.

For additional winter weather preparation information, please visit the BCES web site at www.bces.wa.gov or call us at (509) 628-2600 or toll free at (800) 841-7953.

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