

# BE PREPARED - HAMILTON COUNTY



## Winter Weather Safety



Stay weather alert when winter weather is predicted! Keep yourself and your family safe by following these safety tips.

- Build an emergency kit for each place you spend a lot of time. Keep supplies at home, at work, and in the car.
- Power outages are common during a winter storm. If you use a generator, keep it outside and away from windows and doors.
- Have a carbon monoxide alarm at home, especially if you are using a generator!
- Winter storms can last anywhere from a few hours to a few days. Stay indoors and dress in warm layers. Don't forget mittens, a hat, and scarf!
- Check on your neighbors- especially if they are elderly or have Access and Functional Needs.
- Prepare your home to keep out the cold with insulation, caulk, and weather stripping.
- Sign up for Alert Hamilton County weather alerts & emergency information at [www.alerthc.org](http://www.alerthc.org).



## Stay Warm During a Power Outage

- Stay safe AND warm while the power is out. Please read some helpful tips below for staying SAFE while trying to stay warm.
- Limit time outside. If you need to go outside, wear layers of warm clothing, mittens, and a hat to cover skin.
- While indoors, layer clothing and blankets to keep warm. Close doors to every room you will not be using and huddle members of your household in one small room.
- Keep blinds and curtains closed to trap warmth in and keep cold air out. Use towels to block drafts under doors and on window sills.
- If you are heating your home with a fireplace, be sure to have a metal or heat-safe screen. If you have a wood stove, keep doors closed unless adding wood or stoking the fire.
- While generators can be helpful, DO NOT use your generator indoors. Keep the generator outside, in a well ventilated area, away from doors and windows.
- If driving conditions are safe, you may consider visiting a shopping mall, restaurant, or library to stay warm and entertained.

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## Put a Freeze on Winter Fires

December, January and February are the peak months for heating fires. Stay safe while staying warm this winter by following these heating safety recommendations.

**Space Heater:** Anything that can easily burn should be kept at least three feet away from a heat source. Make sure the heater has an automatic shut-off in case it tips over. Turn heaters off when you go to bed or leave the room, and plug heaters directly into outlets, not extension cords or power strips.

**Fireplace:** Keep a glass or metal screen in front of the fireplace to prevent sparks from jumping out. Have the chimney inspected and cleaned each year by a professional. Always put the fire out before you go to bed or leave your home. Put ashes in a metal container with a lid, outside, at least 3 feet from your home.

**Furnace:** Have your furnace professionally inspected each year. Remember to keep anything flammable at least three feet away from the furnace.

**Test smoke alarms at least once a month & have a carbon monoxide detector installed outside each sleeping area and on each level of the home.**

## Winterize Your Vehicle

Before winter weather hits, winterize your vehicle so that you are prepared for winter conditions. Follow the tips below to make sure your car is ready for the cold, ice & snow!

- Have a professional take a look at your car. If needed, get an oil change, fill up windshield washer fluid, and have your battery checked.
- Check your headlights, tail lights and turn signals. Replace foggy, hazy, or damaged lens covers to improve visibility.
- Check your windshield wipers. Replace wipers if they are leaving streaks of water on the windshield, or if wiper blade rubber show signs of cracking.
- Check the exhaust - replace or repair leaks and crimped pipes.
- Prepare Winter Emergency Preparedness Kits for your car. Add items such as: blankets, an ice scraper, cell phone charger & plenty of water and food.



Be sure you are always aware, prepared, and notified this winter so that you are not caught off guard by severe weather. Sign up for Alert Hamilton County to receive weather updates and emergency information via text, call & email. By signing up for Alert Hamilton County, you will also be signed up for Smart911, a life-saving technology that allows you to give vital information to 9-1-1 call takers BEFORE an emergency.

Sign up today: [WWW.ALERTHC.ORG](http://WWW.ALERTHC.ORG)

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