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# MCHD HEALTH BLOG

*The greatest wealth of a community is the health of the people.*



**Public Health**  
Prevent. Promote. Protect.  
MORGAN COUNTY HEALTH DEPT.



## WINTER SAFETY

With winter weather on its way to Ohio, it's worth talking to your loved ones about how you'll prepare for this season. According to [www.Ready.gov](http://www.Ready.gov), winter storms create a higher risk of car accidents, hypothermia, frostbite, carbon monoxide poisoning, and more. Winter storms including blizzards can bring extreme cold, freezing rain, snow, ice and high winds. Here's what the Ready.gov recommends you do to stay safe this winter:

- Know what to do before, during, and after a winter storm.
- Listen to local officials.
- Have emergency supplies in place at home, at work, and in the car. Include jumper cables, sand, a flashlight, warm clothes, blankets, bottled water and non-perishable snacks. Keep a full tank of gas.
- Stay off the road during and after a winter storm.
- Have a carbon monoxide alarm in place, especially if using alternative heating devices.
- Use safe heating devices. Don't heat your home with a gas stovetop or oven.

It is also important to learn the different winter weather terms. A winter storm watch "alerts the public to the possibility of a blizzard, heavy snow, heavy freezing rain, or heavy sleet." A winter storm warning is "issued when hazardous winter weather in the form of heavy snow, heavy freezing rain, or heavy sleet is imminent or occurring." A winter weather advisory is "issued for accumulations of snow, freezing rain, freezing drizzle, and sleet which will cause significant inconveniences and, if caution is not exercised, could lead to life-threatening situations." Understanding the differences between a winter storm watch, winter storm warning, and winter weather advisory will help you know what to expect when bad weather comes.

The Morgan County Health Department wants you and your family to stay safe and warm during these cold winter months. Follow us on social media for more weather safety tips and alerts.