

**Cold Weather and Freeze Alert**

**Keep your heating systems operating**

**Keep your home and family warm.** Heating systems are the lifeline of your home during cold conditions. If they fail, disaster could strike.

**Immediate action required:**

−−All piping must be insulated. Install new and replace damaged insulation where necessary, and don’t forget to disconnect all outdoor water hoses from the summer months and drain them.

−−Inspect all outside dampers for proper operation.

−−Clear and protect all outside vents from ice and snow accumulation.

−−Heat requires power. If generators are unavailable, make arrangements to obtain non-electrical portable heating during outages.

−− also be prepared to supply back-up power to your alternate systems heat systems.

**Safeguard equipment during power outages**

**Voltage surge protection is necessary at all times** – especially during cold, freezing conditions. Severe weather can cause power loss and downed wires, disrupting your home’s power supply. When electricity is restored, the sudden surge of power can literally destroy the electronics in your home, TV, Computer etc...

**Immediate action required:**

−−Unplug it. Anticipate voltage surges during severe weather. The best solution is equipment isolation – turn it off and unplug it. If you need to keep equipment running, installing surge protectors can provide protection.

−−Prepare for power outages. If you rely on generators for back-up power, perform preoperational checks and start-up tests. Consult your generator’s manufacturer for details. In preparation for an extended outage, develop a contingency plan for refueling generator engines.

−−Turn it back on. When power is restored, plug in and turn on devices one at a time.

**Protect your home and ensure accountability**

**The time is now – your home is facing extreme temperatures within**

**24 hours.**

Protect your home and prepare your people before cold weather and freezing temperatures arrive.

Immediate action required:

**−−Inspect building.** Close all windows, doors and outside dampers. Schedule regular building checks during storms and cold weather.

Arrange for snow and ice removal, including the roof.

**−−Who’s responsible?** Ensure accountability by designating family members to help with the various tasks required to protect your home from damage..

**−−Provide emergency telephone numbers.** Collect and distribute a list of emergency phone numbers and contacts, such as snow removal, heating system Repair Company, utility company, and the weather bureau.

**−−Anticipate flooding.** Severe and cold weather can cause flooding. Move susceptible equipment or valuables to an alternate location, where water cannot reach it.

**−−Always have cold-weather gear on hand.** – Have plenty of gloves, hats, emergency blankets, and flashlights available. Provide them to your people, and make sure they know where cold weather gear is stored.