

November 9<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup>, 2015 is Winter Weather Awareness Week. Wadena County Sheriff's Office Emergency Management would like to take the opportunity to remind citizens that the winter months are quickly approaching and it is important to be ready in case of a winter weather emergency.

Officials would like to encourage citizens to inspect or create a winter survival kit for their vehicle and prepare themselves for winter driving conditions. As a reminder, it is also important to closely monitor weather conditions before traveling. Visibility and road conditions can quickly become hazardous causing a very dangerous situation for travelers.



To better prepare your home for the winter months, inspect your furnace, check for any carbon monoxide leaks and install or test carbon monoxide and smoke detectors. It is also recommended to ensure there is a 3-day supply of food, water, and medications at home in case the weather makes it unsafe to venture outside.

Here is a list of the National Weather Service winter warnings

- **Winter Storm Warning:** Issued when hazardous winter weather in the form of heavy snow, heavy freezing rain, or heavy sleet is imminent or occurring. Winter Storm Warnings are usually issued 12 to 24 hours before the event is expected to begin.
- **Winter Storm Watch:** Alerts the public to the possibility of a blizzard, heavy snow, heavy freezing rain, or heavy sleet. Winter Storm Watches are usually issued 12 to 48 hours before the beginning of a Winter Storm.
- **Blizzard Warning:** Issued for sustained or gusty winds of 35 mph or more, and falling or blowing snow creating visibilities at or below  $\frac{1}{4}$  mile; these conditions should persist for at least three hours.
- **Wind Chill Warning:** Issued when wind chill temperatures are expected to be hazardous to life within several minutes of exposure.
- **Wind Chill Advisory:** Issued when wind chill temperatures are expected to be a significant inconvenience to life with prolonged exposure, and, if caution is not exercised, could lead to hazardous exposure.
- **Winter Weather Advisories:** 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.

The Wadena County Sheriff's Office Emergency Management reminds everyone that if you don't have to travel when road conditions are bad don't. If you do have to travel in bad conditions make sure you have your survival kit with.

If you have any questions please feel free to contact Wadena County Sheriff's Office Emergency Management at 218-631-7795