



Every new year brings with it a fresh chance to improve ourselves and refocus. We can all agree that daily life is costly. If you factor in an unexpected disaster showing up at your doorstep, the price tag associated with that is an idea we would rather not think about. This year, take some time to invest energy (not lots of money) into low to no-cost strategies that may save your pocketbook (and your peace of mind) in the long run.

- Know what kind of disasters and emergencies are most common for where you live.
- Create your emergency communications plan. Record important contact and medical information about your family, which you then can share with others and store copies both digitally and on paper.
- Make sure you store important phone numbers somewhere besides just your cell phone.
- Download the FEMA App to receive weather alerts, safety tips and reminders and be ready for the unexpected.
- Build your emergency supply kit over time. Start with items you may already have in your home, like a flashlight, extra batteries, copies of important documents, water and non-perishable food. When you go to the grocery store, you can pick up an extra item each time that you use regularly, especially if it's on sale! Community food banks are a potential resource for food-insecure families to stock their emergency supply kits.
- Talk with family or members of your household about where you will go if told to evacuate. Having a plan before disaster strikes can help you save precious time and money.
- Store important documents and items like passports, birth certificates, maps and electronics in a flood-safe place like a high shelf or upper floor in resealable water-tight plastic bags to help waterproof them.
- Consider adding older clothing that still fits well to your disaster kit instead of donating it. You could also work within your social circle to swap clothes, which can be especially helpful if you have children.
- Look for deals at garage sales and thrift stores. You may find useful items like camping gear, tools, cookware and backpacks or luggage at a fraction of the retail price. Also, keep an eye out for seasonal sales on emergency supplies.
- Check online for free or discounted CPR courses offered near you.
- Visit Floodsmart.gov to know your area's level of flood risk.



Wood County EMA Newsletter

Preparedness and Safety Updates



Vol. 20 January 2026

Winter Preparedness Checklist

Home Winter Preparedness Checklist		
<input type="checkbox"/> Select Foods See Additional Checklist	<input type="checkbox"/> Warm Clothing Hats, Mittens, Parkas, Boots	<input type="checkbox"/> Flashlights & Extra Batteries
<input type="checkbox"/> Disposable Dishware Plates, Bowls, Utensils	<input type="checkbox"/> Extra Blankets	<input type="checkbox"/> First Aid Kit
<input type="checkbox"/> Specialty Items Meds, Infant Formula, etc.	<input type="checkbox"/> Matches For Candles & Gas Fireplaces	<input type="checkbox"/> Cell Phone Fully Charged
<input type="checkbox"/> Portable Radio AM/FM/Wx Radio & Batteries	<input type="checkbox"/> Shovel/Snow Blower Check condition & maintain	<input type="checkbox"/> Firewood For Wood Fireplaces

Car Winterization Checklist	
<input type="checkbox"/> Check Engine Fluid Levels Oil, Coolant, Washer Fluid, etc.	<input type="checkbox"/> Inspect Tire Tread Replace if Near Wear Limit
<input type="checkbox"/> Test Battery Replace if Necessary	<input type="checkbox"/> Install Snow Tires if You Own a Set
<input type="checkbox"/> Use Deicing Washer Fluid Clean Windshield at Low Temps	<input type="checkbox"/> Test Headlights & Taillights
<input type="checkbox"/> Switch to Synthetic Oil Handles the Cold Better	<input type="checkbox"/> Add & Inspect Winter Survival Kit

Home Winter Survival Food Checklist	
<input type="checkbox"/> Canned Fruits and Vegetables Requires a Manual Can Opener	<input type="checkbox"/> Bread and Condiments Keep Bread Frozen to Last Longer
<input type="checkbox"/> Crackers, Nuts, Fruit Bars, Chips High Energy Foods	<input type="checkbox"/> Cereal and Toaster Pastries
<input type="checkbox"/> Soups Some Soups Require Water or Heating	<input type="checkbox"/> Meals Ready to Eat (MREs)
<input type="checkbox"/> Cookies and Hard Candy	<input type="checkbox"/> Bottled Water 1 gallon per person, per day (for at least 3 days)

Car Winter Survival Kit Checklist		
<input type="checkbox"/> Flashlight & Extra Batteries	<input type="checkbox"/> Blankets/Sleeping Bag	<input type="checkbox"/> Extra Clothing Hats, Mittens, Parkas, Boots
<input type="checkbox"/> First Aid Kit	<input type="checkbox"/> Non-Perishable Food Granola Bars, Dried nuts, etc.	<input type="checkbox"/> Sand/Kitty Litter Used for Traction
<input type="checkbox"/> Snow Shovel	<input type="checkbox"/> Bottled Water	<input type="checkbox"/> Cell Phone & Charger
<input type="checkbox"/> Ice Scraper with Brush	<input type="checkbox"/> Booster Cables	<input type="checkbox"/> Flares/Triangles & other Bright Objects

Protect The "4 Ps"

This Winter:

People, Pipes, Pets, & Plants

People

- Stay warm: Dress in layers and minimize time spent outdoors during extreme cold.
- Check on others: Make sure vulnerable family members, friends, or neighbors are warm and safe.
- Prepare for outages: Have essential supplies ready in case of a power outage.

Pets

- Bring pets indoors, especially during cold nights. If they must go out, limit their time and ensure they have a warm, dry shelter.
- Provide warmth: Make sure they have a warm and comfortable space to retreat to.

Pipes

- Insulate and protect: Insulate outdoor pipes and use pipe sleeves to prevent freezing.
- Keep water flowing: Let faucets drip slightly, particularly those on exterior walls, to keep water moving.
- Allow air circulation: Open cabinet doors under sinks to let warm air from your home circulate around the pipes.

Plants

- Cover outdoor plants with blankets or frost cloth, or bring container plants indoors before a freeze.
- Be aware of your plants' temperature thresholds to know how to best protect them.

WEAR LAYERS TO PREVENT FROSTBITE

Ready.

For more tips visit
www.ready.gov/winter



WOOD COUNTY EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

A Department under the Board of County Commissioners:
Craig LaHote, Dr. Theodore H. Bowlus, Doris I. Herringshaw Ed.D.

CONTACT US: 419-354-9269

WOODCOUNTYEMA@WOODCOUNTYOHIO.GOV

FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA:

