

CHARLESTON

FIRE DEPARTMENT



Winter Weather Precautions

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Charleston, SC (January 27, 2014): The National Weather Service in Charleston, SC has issued a Winter Storm Watch in effect starting Tuesday at 12:00 PM until 5:00 PM on Wednesday, January 29th, 2014. A winter storm watch means there is a potential for significant snow, sleet, or ice accumulations that could impact travel and utilities. Travel can become dangerous as roads and bridges become covered with freezing rain and snow. Drivers should be especially careful on bridges, overpasses, and infrequently traveled roads.

The South Carolina Highway Patrol has offered these tips on driving in the winter weather:

- Speed – Slow down for snowy, icy, and wet conditions. A vehicles control can be better maintained at a lower speed. Avoid abrupt steering maneuvers which could make you lose control of the vehicle. Avoid using your cruise control. You need to be in control of your speed based on road conditions.
- Braking – Use brakes carefully. Brake early and brake slowly. Braking gently will help to avoid your vehicle skidding.
- Stay Alert – While driving in adverse conditions, look farther ahead in traffic than you normally do. Actions of other vehicles will alert you to potential problems more quickly.

With the potential for loss of power, please take time to remember these tips if using a portable generator:

- Read and follow the manufacturer's operating instructions before using the generator.
- Never use a generator inside your home, garage, crawl space, basement or other enclosed areas.
- Only use generators outdoors, away from open windows, vents or doors.
- Gasoline and its vapors are extremely flammable. Allow the generator engine to cool before refilling with fuel.

Carbon monoxide (CO) is a deadly, colorless, odorless, and poisonous gas. Equipment powered by internal combustion engines such as a portable generator can produce CO.

- Install and maintain a carbon monoxide alarm outside bedrooms or sleeping areas.
- Carbon monoxide alarms are NOT a substitute for smoke alarms. Make sure smoke alarms are on every level of your home and inside and outside of each bedroom.

If you have any type of emergency, please do not hesitate to dial 9-1-1. If you have any questions on adverse weather preparedness, please contact Community Educator Ryan Kunitzer at 843-958-6401 or by email at kunitzerr@charleston-sc.gov.

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