

Winter Storms



CERT Basic Training Hazards

Winter Storms

- Range
 - Moderate snow over a few hours
 - Blizzard conditions with blinding wind-driven snow that lasts for several days
- Many winter storms are accompanied by:
 - Low temperatures
 - Heavy or blowing snow, severely reducing visibility

Winter Storm Risks

- Automobile or other transportation accidents
- Exhaustion and heart attacks
- Hypothermia and frostbite
- House fires
- Asphyxiation

Elements of Winter Storms

- Heavy snow
- Ice – Perhaps the greatest danger of all!
- Winter flooding
- Cold

Types of Snow

- Blizzards
- Blowing snow
- Snow squalls
- Snow showers

Ice

- Sleet
- Freezing rain
- Ice storm

Winter Flooding

- Coastal floods
- Ice jams
- Snowmelt

Cold

- Windchill
- Frostbite
- Hypothermia

Winter Storm Preparedness

- Understand the risk
- Prepare your home
- Service snow removal equipment
- Keep vehicle's gas tank full
- Pay attention to warnings

During a Winter Storm

- Stay indoors and dress warmly
- Eat and drink regularly
- Conserve fuel
- If outside, protect yourself from hazards

Winter Travel

- **Avoid it, if possible!**
- If you **MUST** travel in winter weather:
 - Winterize your vehicle
 - Keep charged cell phone or two-way radio with you at all times
 - Carry disaster supply kit in your vehicle
 - If stranded, stay inside your vehicle