

Preparing your home for wintertime weather

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Just recently the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration predicted that our winter outlook indicates a cooler and wetter season than we usually experience in the northern portion of the United States. With a warning such as this it would be to our advantage to prepare our home prior to the arrival of the bitter cold. These steps that you can take to protect your family are as follows:

- Cleaning and inspecting your heating equipment
- Insulating walls, attics and water pipes, and caulking and weather stripping doors and windows
- Installing storm windows or covering your windows with plastic
- Clearing rain gutters
- Checking your roof to be sure it can handle the extra weight of snow and ice
- Installing battery-operated carbon monoxide detectors.

We are reminded that more home fires take place in the winter than in any other season. You can protect your family by following these simple rules:

- Always use some sort of metal or heat-tempered glass screen when your fireplace is in use.
- Make sure that if you use a space heater that it is equipped with an automatic shut off in the event that it tips
- Keep build-ups of snow and ice at least three feet from fire hydrants to allow the fire department access in the event of a fire.

Always remember that cold weather can be deceptively dangerous. Do not let yourself get caught in the cold. Now is the time to prepare for that severe winter weather which is coming soon.