



Winter Weather Hazards

Provided by

The National Weather Service, Hastings, NE

and

Buffalo County / City of Kearney Emergency Management





Winter Weather Terms



- **Winter Storm Watch**
 - Hazardous winter weather event has increased probability of occurrence within 48 hours
- **Winter Storm Warning**
 - Potentially life/property threatening winter weather event is occurring or expected to occur
 - **Often associated with 6"-8" of snow accumulation within 12-24 hours**
 - Can be a combination of winter elements (wind, snow, ice, cold)
- **Blizzard Warning**
 - **Most serious and dangerous winter weather event occurring or expected to occur**
 - Sustained wind or frequent gusts to 35 mph, Visibility frequently reduced to ¼ mile
 - Travel nearly impossible. Road closures likely. Rescue operations will cease
- **Winter Weather Advisory**
 - Winter weather event which will cause significant inconvenience is occurring or expected to occur
 - **Often associated with 1"-5" of snow accumulation within 12-24 hours**
 - Can be a combination of winter elements (wind, snow, ice, blowing and drifting snow, cold)



Winter Weather Terms



- **Wind Chill Advisory**

- Apparent temperature (i.e., Wind Chill) range from -20° to -29°
- Exposed will experience frost bite in as little as 30 minutes

- **Wind Chill Warning**

- Apparent temperatures of -30° or less
- Frostbite on exposed skin will occur in just minutes
- Very dangerous and potentially life threatening to those outside without proper protection



- **Precautions:**

- Always wear hat, gloves or mittens. Cover all of your exposed skin.
- Do not overexert yourself



Winter Weather Safety



- **If you are caught outside:**

- Find shelter and stay dry
- Cover all exposed body parts

- **If you are in a vehicle:**

- Stay in your vehicle!
- Run the motor about 10 minutes each hour for heat
- Open the window a bit for fresh air.
- Make sure your exhaust pipe is clear of snow.



- **If you are at home or inside:**

- Stay inside! Do not leave. Wear layers of loose fitting clothing
- Eat and drink, providing the body with energy and hydration
- If you use alternate heat sources, use proper safe guards and properly ventilate your location.



For More Information



- National Weather Service, Hastings, NE
 - www.weather.gov/hastings
 - Recorded Forecast: 402-462-4287
- Nebraska Road Conditions
 - www.511.nebraska.gov
 - Or call "511"
- Emergency Management
 - <http://buffalocounty.ne.gov/EMERGENCY-MANAGER>
 - <http://cityofkearney.org>
- Sign up for weather and emergency notifications
 - <https://www.buffalowactch.net>

