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WINTER WEATHER PRECAUTIONS

With winter weather putting a chill on many parts of the nation, the Emergency Management Division is issuing reminders regarding severe winter weather.

- Travel on icy or snow-covered roads can be hazardous, so motorists are warned to use extra caution.
- South Carolinians unaccustomed to dealing with life-threatening aspects of severe cold should remember to keep exposure to cold weather to a minimum. Frostbite is harmful and painful. Hypothermia, or low body temperature, can be lethal, and it is particularly hard on infants and the elderly. **When the weather turns cold, don't go outdoors unless you have to. If you must go out, dress in layers and cover your ears, head and hands.** Remember, high wind speeds dramatically increase the effects of cold temperatures by increasing the "wind chill factor."
- Stock up on heating fuel and prepare emergency heating sources, such as fireplaces, wood stoves and space heaters. **(WARNING: Never burn charcoal briquettes indoors.)**
- Use extreme caution when operating a portable generator. Be sure to read the owner's manual first. Do NOT operate a generator indoors or in any confined space, exhaust fumes can be very dangerous.
- Remember the usual emergency supplies: a flashlight and batteries, a battery-powered radio, extra non-perishable food and water, extra medicines and baby items, and first-aid supplies.
- Top off the fuel tank in your car, check the antifreeze, and keep in mind that driving conditions during the winter can become extremely hazardous due to icy roads and bridges.
- Freezing temperatures can burst water pipes in homes that lack heat or proper insulation. Wrap exposed pipes or take other measure to insulate them from the cold.
- Prepare a place indoors for pets. Move farm animals to shelters and have extra feed and water available.

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