

STORM SEASON SAFETY



STAY SAFE IN DEEP SNOW

Hey Californians! As cooler months bring new challenges to our state, like deep snow, Listos California is taking action to protect our communities.

While the California Governor's Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES) and first responders across our state prepare for this climate-driven extreme weather, there are a few simple steps YOU can take today to keep yourself, your loved ones and neighbors safe during snowy conditions.

Deep snow can disrupt life by leaving people trapped inside their homes, adding weight to roofs, and knocking down trees and power lines. Being prepared for deep snow can save lives.



PREPARE FOR DEEP SNOW

- Stay up to date on storm warnings. Monitor weather reports and official TV, radio and county emergency services channels. Sign up for local emergency alerts at ListosCalifornia.org/Alerts.
- Gather plenty of food, water and medicine before a snowstorm. Storms with heavy snowfall can cause power outages and trap you in your home for days. Plan ahead and have:
 - Water and food that doesn't need cooking or refrigeration
 - Extra prescription medicine
 - Diapers and formula
 - Extra food and warm shelter for pets and livestock
- Plan for power outages. Prepare to keep medicines cold and medical devices charged. Fully charge backup batteries and have access to a battery-powered radio for news.
- Sign up for alerts through your energy company so you can be notified about any energy issues. If you use electric medical and assistive devices, be sure to enroll in a medical baseline program to ensure you're safe if the power goes off.
- Make sure you have enough warm clothing to dress in layers, and hats, gloves, scarves and blankets for everyone in your household.
- If you use heating oil to fuel your furnace, be sure you have enough to last several days. Have emergency heating equipment in case deep snow interrupts your electric or gas service.



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STAY SAFE DURING DEEP SNOW

- At the first sign of a storm, move livestock to sheltered areas and bring pets inside.
- Heat your home safely:
 - Do not use stoves, camp stoves or gas/charcoal grills for heat inside your home. The fumes are deadly.
 - Only use a generator outside, at least 20 feet from doors and windows. Do not use generators in wet conditions. Never use a generator indoors. Its poisonous exhaust can kill in minutes.
 - Keep all propane gas equipment clear of snow and ice. Snow and ice can damage propane equipment and cause a gas leak. If you ever smell gas – a rotten egg or skunk spray odor – put out all smoking materials and other open flames and leave immediately. Call 911 to report the leak from a safe location away from where gas is leaking.
 - Put on warm winter coats, blankets and sleeping bags. Use an up-to-code fireplace with dry firewood, portable space heaters, or kerosene heaters if they are legal in your area. Keep all portable heaters at least 3 feet away from flammable objects.
- To prevent your pipes from freezing and bursting, leave water taps on a slow drip. If your pipes freeze, use a hair dryer to unfreeze them. If your pipes burst, use a different water source, such as bottled water.
- Limit travel during a snowstorm. Roads and freezing temperatures can quickly become dangerous.
- If you must travel, let someone know where you are going so they know where to search for you in an emergency. Travel during daylight hours for better visibility.
- Do not drive in snowy areas unless your vehicle is properly equipped for snow. Check the air pressure in your tires and make sure your tires have enough tread. Add any chains or studs required in your area.



RECOVER FROM DEEP SNOW

- Continue to stay tuned to local radio, TV and official social media for updated news and information on utility outages, emergency rescue services and blocked roads.
- Document any damage with pictures.
- Avoid driving until snowplows have had the chance to clear roads and travel conditions have improved.
- When shoveling snow, take frequent breaks to avoid exhaustion and strain if you have to shovel by hand. Borrow a snowblower if possible.
- The weight of deep snow can snap branches and cause roofs to collapse. Get the help of professionals to remove ice and deep snow from trees and your roof.
- Check on neighbors and others who may need special assistance, such as older people and those with infants.

