

EXTREME COLD: PROTECT YOUR CHURCH'S PROPERTY

Snow, ice, wind-chill, and subzero temperatures can create situations that threaten your church's facilities if you are not adequately prepared. Even short periods of exposure to this extreme cold can cause serious problems. The Insurance Board wants to make sure that everyone is safe as the temperatures unexpectedly go up. Here are some tips to cope.

Winter Storm Preparation

- Develop a snow removal plan.
 - Identify responsibilities of church staff.
 - Service the church snow blowers or tractors.
 - Keep an emergency supply of winter items in a dedicated location.
 - Snow and ice melting products (e.g. rock salt).
 - Sand – to improve traction for humans and automobiles.
 - Shovels or other snow removal equipment.
 - Extra clothing and blankets.
- Check your plumbing.
 - In the event of freezing temperatures, allow faucets to drip slightly to prevent the pipes from freezing.
 - Be sure that all staff have proper training on how to shut off the water valves in the event of a burst pipe.
 - Keep the thermostat set at 55 Fahrenheit and be sure to open the doors in the cabinets under kitchen and bathroom sinks.
- Stock up and make accessible an Emergency Supply Kit.
 - First-aid kit.
 - Non-perishable foods.
 - Water.
 - Non-electric can opener.
 - Battery-powered or crank radio.
 - The American Red Cross makes an excellent one.
 - Fully charged spare cell phone battery.
 - Flashlight(s) or lanterns.
 - Extra batteries.
 - Extra blankets, sleeping bags, and/or warm winter coats.
- Automobile readiness
 - Always leave the gas tank half full (at the least) to prevent fuel line freeze up and allow you to stay warm if stranded.
 - Check your tires for adequate tread and to ensure that they are adequately inflated.
 - Consider the seasonal use of snow tires and whether tire chains are an option.
 - Have a bag of sand in the trunk to help with traction and add weight to the car to help avoid slipping/skidding.
 - Replace windshield-wiper fluid with a wintertime mixture.
 - Make sure you keep the following items in your trunk:
 - Emergency Supply Kit.
 - Ice Scraper.
 - Shovel.
 - Bag of Sand.
 - Jumper Cables.