

# PREPARING FOR A SNOW STORM

## **At Home: Preparing for a Snow Storm**

Late in 2006, Colorado was the lucky recipient of not one but two snow storms. Snow of that magnitude doesn't happen every year. It was estimated that drifts in some areas of Denver reached up to 6 feet, with an average depth of about 3 feet. By most estimates, it was the fourth largest storm in recorded state history (though some readings place it at sixth) and the largest Colorado blizzard since March 2003.

Winter storms can bring hazardous conditions that pose a serious safety threat. Ranging from moderate snow over a few hours to blizzard conditions that last several days, a winter storm is not something to treat lightly. Your best defense is to be prepared. Every household should plan ahead to keep your family and home safe.

## **Winterize Your Home**

Look around the yard to determine if any trees might pose a hazard to the house if they were to fall. Consider having them removed by a professional tree service.

## **When a Snow Storm Approaches**

A severe snow storm could keep you trapped in your house for several days or longer. If you heat with an alternative fuel, check your fuel supply and call for a delivery before the storm hits. Conserve fuel by keeping your house cooler than usual. Temporarily shut off heat to less-used rooms by closing registers and shutting the doors. Let faucets drip a little to avoid freezing. Open cupboards and closet doors that house water pipes to allow warm air to circulate. Be sure smoke detectors are working. Have your fire extinguisher inspected and keep a fire extinguisher available.

## **Assemble Emergency Supplies**

Make a trip to the store for supplies BEFORE the storm develops. Don't forget essentials, such as prescription medications, extra batteries, first-aid supplies, baby supplies, a week's supply of nonperishable food, and bottled water. High energy food, such as dried fruit, nuts, and canned goods that do not require heating are best. Plan on a gallon of water per day per person and per animal. Be sure you have a manual can opener. Gather extra blankets, sleeping bags, and warm clothing (at least one change of clothes for each family member). It's also a good idea to make a checklist of emergency supplies and keep them stocked in easy-to-carry bags or boxes at all times. Don't forget food for pets.

## **Prepared for a Power Outage**

Keep an ample supply of wood for the fireplace or a kerosene space heater with extra heating fuel. Make sure that you have flashlights with extra batteries. If you opt to use candles for lighting, DO NOT LEAVE lit candles near small children or unattended. Stay tuned to your local forecast with a portable battery-operated radio.

If your furnace goes out, take these precautions: Close off any rooms that aren't needed. Stuff towels in cracks and under doors to prevent heat loss. Cover windows with blankets at night. Stay nourished and hydrated so your body can produce its own heat.

During a snowstorm, please understand that the Longmont Police Department is overwhelmed by calls from the public. These calls need to be prioritized. Calls involving health and life safety of our residents are priority. Please be patient as staff is working as quickly as possible.

If you have an outage during a storm, please do not call 9-1-1. For electric power interruption call Longmont Power & Communications at 303-776-0011. For natural gas outages please call 1-800-895-2999.