

# WINTERIZE

BE PREPARED FOR WINTER WEATHER  
SNOW • WIND • RAIN • ICE

## WINTER WEATHER PREPAREDNESS GUIDE

Here are some basic tips to  
help prepare and survive  
severe winter weather

Additional online resources  
listed inside



# BE PREPARED

at home and work with an emergency supply kit, a properly maintained home and winterized vehicles.

## Make an emergency supply kit

- First aid kit
- Battery operated radio
- Flashlight(s) with batteries
- Water and non-perishable food
- Manual can opener
- Sanitation supplies and medicine(s)
- Whistle
- Charging cords for mobile devices

**More tips:** [RedCross.org](https://www.redcross.org)

## Do home maintenance

- Clear debris from gutters
- Repair roof leaks
- Clear debris from storm drains
- Remove hazardous tree limbs
- Insulate water pipes and faucets
- Make sure heating equipment, furnaces and chimney are properly maintained
- Install battery-operated carbon monoxide and smoke detectors; check batteries regularly

**More tips:** [TakeWinterByStorm.org](https://www.takewinterbystorm.org)

## Winterize your vehicle

- Fill gas tank when half full
- Install snow tires or purchase tire chains
- Check anti-freeze levels
- Maintain proper windshield fluid levels and wipers
- Ensure heater and defroster work properly
- Keep emergency supplies with extra clothing in the car

**More tips:** [FEMA.gov](https://www.fema.gov)

# BE SAFE

and know how to safely survive without electricity or gas.

Stay informed.

## Stay safe during a power outage

- Wear layers of clothing inside the house
- Do not use any of the following indoors: generators, gasoline and propane heaters, outdoor heating equipment, or cooking equipment such as a grills and camp stoves
- Keep generators outside at least 20 feet from any door, window or vent
- Do not use open flames in the house
- Have extra batteries nearby for flashlights and lanterns
- Keep refrigerator and freezer doors closed as much as possible

## Protect yourself and others

- If it is possible to do so, stay home and avoid driving on roadways
- If you must drive, stay away from storm-damaged areas and drive using extreme caution
- Keep pets warm and inside
- Have pet supplies as part of your emergency kit
- Clear sidewalks of snow and debris near your home or business
- Check to see if your neighbors need help

## Get emergency information

- Listen to news radio and TV
- Listen to an emergency weather radio
- Download apps to receive alerts
- Check websites for current information
- Search for shelter information

**More tips:** [BellevueWA.gov/prepare](https://www.bellevuewa.gov/prepare)

# PREPAREDNESS FOR PEOPLE WITH ACCESS AND FUNCTIONAL NEEDS

## Create a health card

- List allergies and food sensitivities, medications and types of health care equipment
- List communication difficulties (e.g. hearing loss)
- List medical providers
- List contact information of your personal support network members
- Keep a copy of your health card in your emergency kit
- Have your health card readily available, especially for first responders

## Maintain medical equipment and devices

- Have a backup power supply for medical equipment and devices, such as a wheelchair or scooter
- Keep model information with your emergency kit
- Know availability of your treatment facility or alternate facilities, especially if you are dependent on dialysis or other life-sustaining treatment

## Conduct an “Ability Self-Assessment”

On your own, are you able to:

- shut off gas, water, electricity utilities
- operate a fire extinguisher
- carry your emergency supplies kit

Seek assistance from your personal support network in conducting the assessment; have a plan if you are unable to do these tasks independently.

If there is a disability or mobility concern, specific needs should be considered during a winter storm. Create a personal support network of friends and family members. Share with them copies of important documents, emergency and evacuation plans, keys, and health care information.

### **Additional tips**

If you use an augmentative communications device or other assistive technologies, plan how you will evacuate with the devices and how you will replace them or communicate without them if the equipment is lost or destroyed

Prepare cards with phrases, pictures, or pictograms for communication, so your support network or first responders can communicate with you

If you are blind or have low vision or are in the support network of someone who is:

- Prepare Braille or text communications cards
- Label your emergency supplies with Braille or large print



# ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

## How to get emergency information

**Check websites:** [BellevueWA.gov](http://BellevueWA.gov) | [KingCounty.gov](http://KingCounty.gov) | [WSDOT.wa.gov](http://WSDOT.wa.gov)

**Download apps:** MyBellevue | Red Cross Emergency | NOAA Weather Radar

**Follow City Twitter sites:** @bellevuewa | @bvuetrans

## Follow traffic, transit and weather Twitter sites:

@wsdot\_traffic | @kcmetroalerts | @soundtransit | @nwsseattle

**Subscribe to emergency alerts:** Alert King County – [norcom.org](http://norcom.org)

**Bellevue School District** –School Messenger – [bsd405.org](http://bsd405.org)

## How to report hazards during the emergency

**Call 9-1-1** to report serious injuries or death

**Report power outage to:** Puget Sound Energy (PSE)

1-888-225-5773 | [pse.com/outage](http://pse.com/outage)

**Report road hazards (flooding, downed trees or wires, snow/ice) to:**

Bellevue Service Center

425-452-7840 (24-hour hotline) | [omsupport@bellevuewa.gov](mailto:omsupport@bellevuewa.gov)

Submit non-emergency service requests via the MyBellevue app

## How to get help after the emergency

**American Red Cross disaster relief information:** [RedCross.org](http://RedCross.org)

**Washington 2-1-1:** Call 2-1-1 or visit [Win211.org](http://Win211.org) for health and human services support

**King County Metro Access Rideline:** Call 206-205-5000 (Relay 711) or visit [KingCounty.gov](http://KingCounty.gov)

**Bellevue Human Services, Parks & Community Services Department:**

Alexandra O'Reilly, 425-452-2824, [aoreilly@bellevuewa.gov](mailto:aoreilly@bellevuewa.gov)

# INFORMATION ABOUT SNOW PLOWING

## Priority

### Before a storm

When snow is forecasted for Bellevue, the city's street crews get ready by monitoring the weather forecast, establishing staff schedules, loading trucks with sand, anti-icing and de-icing chemicals.

### During a storm

Bellevue streets are plowed and de-iced based upon a priority street route system. Primary arterial streets and primary neighborhood loops are cleared first to accommodate fire, medical and police response, as well as transit, school buses and commuter traffic. If snowfall is continuous, these primary assignments may require repeated plowing and sanding before neighborhood streets can be cleared.

To view the priority snow route map, go to [BellevueWA.gov/transportation](https://BellevueWA.gov/transportation).

## You Can Help

During a snow storm, it is best not to drive on the roads so that crews can conduct continuous plowing. If you must drive and are behind a snow plow, leave extra distance between vehicles. Do not pass the snow plows.

If possible, do not park vehicles on streets. This allows the snow plow crews to quickly and safely plow the entire roadway.

## Windrows

A windrow is a berm of snow left across a driveway entrance. When streets are plowed, a windrow may be formed. Since driveways are private property, it is the responsibility of the homeowner to keep them clear. The city is not able to clear windrows.

The city does not maintain private properties, business complexes, apartment complexes, alleys or private streets.



In keeping with our commitment to accessibility, inclusion and diversity, this guide will be published online at [BellevueWA.gov/prepare](https://www.belleuvewa.gov/prepare) in the languages most commonly spoken by Bellevue residents: English, Korean (한국어), Spanish (Español), Vietnamese (Tiếng Việt), Chinese (中文) and Russian (Русский).

This guide was produced by the Transportation Department, Fire Department/Office of Emergency Management and City Manager's Office/ADA-Title VI Civil Rights Program.



## City of Bellevue

**Information**  
정보  情報  
सूचना  資料  
425-452-6800  
సమాచారం Thông Tin  
Información معلومات  
Информация

Title VI Notice to the Public: It is the City of Bellevue's policy to assure that no person shall on the grounds of race, color, national origin or sex, as provided by the Title VI of the Civil Rights Acts of 1964, be excluded from participating in, be denied the benefits of, or be otherwise discriminated against under any of its federally funded program and activities. Any person who believes his/her Title VI protection has been violated may file a complaint with the Title VI Coordinator. For Title VI complaint forms and advice, please contact the Title VI Coordinator at 425-452-6168.



For alternate formats, interpreters, or reasonable accommodation requests please phone at least 48 hours in advance 425-452-6168 (voice) or email [bamson@bellevuewa.gov](mailto:bamson@bellevuewa.gov). For complaints regarding accommodations, contact City of Bellevue ADA/Title VI Administrator at 425-452-6168 (voice) or email [ADATitleVI@bellevuewa.gov](mailto:ADATitleVI@bellevuewa.gov). If you are deaf or hard of hearing dial 711. All meetings are wheelchair accessible.