

CITY OF MUSCATINE



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TIME TO PREPARE FOR WINTER WEATHER IS NOW

National Weather Service marks Winter Weather Awareness Day on November 7

DES MOINES, Iowa - Wintertime poses a wide range of threats to the American public. Whether it be exposure to the cold, vehicle accidents caused by slick roads, or fires resulting from the improper use of heaters, hundreds of people are injured or killed each year as a direct result of winter weather.



Winter storms range from a moderate snow over a few hours to a massive blizzard with blinding, wind-driven snow that lasts for several days. Some winter storms are large enough to affect several states while others affect only a single community.

High winds, freezing rain or sleet, heavy snowfall, and dangerously cold temperatures are the main hazards associated with winter storms. Impassable snow drifts often maroon people at home without utilities or other services for days after an event. Heavy snowfall and blizzards easily trap motorists in their vehicles and make walking to find help a deadly effort. Severely

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cold temperatures and wind chills during and after a winter storm can lead to hypothermia and kill anyone caught outside for too long. The aftermath of a winter storm can impact a community or region for days, weeks or even months, incurring steep economic costs.

Click the following link to see more about [Winter Weather Safety](#).

Click [HERE](#) for additional winter weather preparedness information.

Revisions to watch, warning, and advisory products for cold can be found [HERE](#).

Centers for Disease Control and prevention- [Winter Weather](#).

Terms to Know:

- **Snow Squall:** intense, but limited duration, periods of moderate to heavy snowfall, accompanied by gusty surface winds resulting in reduced visibilities and whiteout conditions. Rapidly falling temperatures in conjunction with the snow can cause dangerous impacts to surface transportation.
- **Blizzard:** **Blowing and/or falling snow with winds of at least 35 mph**, reducing visibilities to **a quarter of a mile** or less for at least three hours. Winds lofting the current snow pack and reducing visibilities without any falling snow is called a ground blizzard.
- **Freezing Rain:** Caused by rain falling on surfaces with a temperature below freezing. The rain freezes upon contact with the ground. Large build-ups of ice can down trees and power lines and coat roads.
- **Sleet:** Rain/melted snow that has begun refreezing when it reaches the ground. Sleet tends to be softer than hail and is easily compacted. Sleet can make roads slippery very quickly.
- **Wind Chill:** The **apparent temperature** the body feels when wind is factored into the equation.