



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **RED CROSS URGES COMMUNITY TO PREPARE FOR WINTER WEATHER STORMS**

**Springfield, IL:** The American Red Cross, Illinois Capital Area Chapter urges the community to prepare for the upcoming winter weather storms.

The American Red Cross urges individuals and families to create a Winter Family Disaster Plan and discuss plans and procedures in the event of winter emergencies including heavy snow, ice, winter flooding and exposure to cold. One of the most important steps in the Winter Family Disaster Plan is creating a disaster supplies kit for your home and vehicle.

### **At Home and Work**

- Flashlight and extra batteries
- Extra medicine and baby items
- Extra food and water (high-calorie/energy, non-perishable)
- Extra food and water for pets
- Emergency heat source (fireplace, wood stove, space heater): use and ventilate properly to prevent fires
- First-aid supplies
- Battery powered weather radio
- Extra blankets

### **In Vehicles**

- Mobile phone/charger/batteries
- Flashlight with extra batteries
- High-calorie, non-perishable food
- Windshield scraper/brush
- Battery booster cables
- Water container
- Tow rope
- Blankets/sleeping bags
- First-aid kit/supplies
- Extra clothing
- Shovel
- Large empty can (emergency toilet)
- Compass and road maps
- Sack of sand for traction

“The Red Cross encourages individuals and families to take the time to prepare to ensure that they will know how to respond during a winter storm,” says Jenny Antonacci, Community Relations Manager, Illinois Capital Area Chapter. “We encourage everyone to take the steps today to be prepared.”

For more information about how to keep yourself and your family safe during the winter months, please call your local American Red Cross at (217) 522-3357.

American Red Cross disaster assistance is provided to people in need without charge. This is made possible by voluntary donations of time, money and blood from the American people. Contributions may be sent to the American Red Cross Illinois Capital Area Chapter Local Disaster Relief Fund at P.O. Box 1058 Springfield, IL 62705-1058 or by calling 217-522-3357.

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