



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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

The American Red Cross, Illinois Capital Area Chapter urges the community to prepare for the possibility of winter storms. The National Weather Service in Lincoln has issued a winter storm watch, effective late tonight (Wednesday) through Friday.

The American Red Cross urges individuals 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 fire
- 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 to take the time to prepare to ensure that they will know how to respond in the event of a winter storm,” said Jenny Antonacci, Community Relations Manager for the 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) 787-7602.

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