

BE READY St. Clair County *When the Winter Weather Hits*

Each year in St. Clair County people are injured or suffer property damage as a direct result of winter storms that bring extreme cold, wind, freezing rain, and snow. Residents encounter icy roads, frostbite, overexertion from snow removal and isolation due to heavy snowfalls. The probability of residential fires and carbon monoxide poisoning is greatly increased with the use of alternative heating sources such as wood, kerosene and space heaters.

- If using a fireplace or wood stove, inspect and clean your pipes and chimneys annually. Inspect monthly for obstructions, cracks, or damage. Only use UL approved electric space and kerosene heaters.
- When you need to be outside wear loose-fitting, light-weight warm clothing and layer up. Avoid overexerting yourself when shoveling, pushing a car, or walking in deep snow. Sweating can lead to chill and hypothermia.
- Try to keep your gas tank near full at all times.
- Make sure your emergency plan is up-to-date including a 72-hour emergency supply kit at home including a flashlight, portable radio, extra food, bottled water, and extra warm clothes. Don't forget extra batteries and supplies for your pets!

