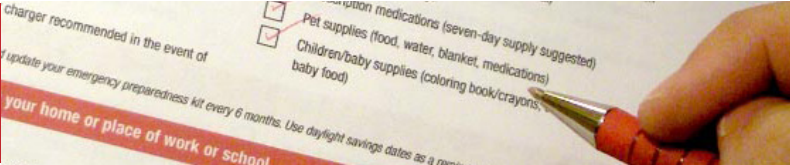


COLUMBUS DAY STORM OF 1962 AND WINTER WEATHER EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS



WHEEDLE WEATHER PREPAREDNESS TIP
Prepare before storms hit and be weather-ready! Find weather forecasts for your specific area at TakeWinterByStorm.org/Weather.



Take Winter By Storm and Newspapers In Education are preparing you for winter storms. Join us on Tuesdays as we offer tips on winter weather emergency preparedness for you, your students and their families. Our journey begins with a look back at one of the Northwest’s most powerful weather events, the Columbus Day Storm of 1962.

On Columbus Day, October 12, 1962, the strongest non-tropical windstorm ever to hit the lower 48 states in recorded American history struck the Pacific coast. The storm claimed 46 lives, injured hundreds more, and knocked power out for several million people. The Columbus Day Storm is considered the benchmark of all windstorms, against which all others are compared. The storm struck Northern California in the morning, moving quickly north along the Oregon and Washington coasts during the day before dissipating in British Columbia that night. Wind speeds peaked along the Oregon coast, with sustained winds of 150 mph and gusts up to 179 mph reported from Cape Blanco, and gusts to 138 mph at Newport. Many wind reports were lost because of power outages, with peak winds likely occurring after the power was out. The storm packed hurricane-force winds causing \$235 million in property damage (estimated at \$1.4 billion in 2001 dollars). In addition, it blew down over 15 billion board-feet of timber (estimated value at \$4.4 billion in 2001 dollars) from the West Coast to as far inland as western Montana.

Use Take Winter By Storm checklists to prepare **prior** to winter storms. You can find detailed lists, Emergency Contact Cards in multiple languages, and additional resources and tips in our Teacher’s Guide at seattletimes.com/NIE and at TakeWinterByStorm.org.

WINTER WEATHER EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS



WHEEDLE WEATHER PREPAREDNESS TIP
Review and practice your Family Emergency Communication Plan twice a year. Use daylight-saving dates as preparedness dates for your family.

STATE OF EMERGENCY

What exactly is a “state of emergency”?

Washington state defines an emergency or disaster as “an event or set of circumstances which: (i) Demands immediate action to preserve public health, protect life, protect public property, or to provide relief to any stricken community overtaken by such occurrences, or (ii) reaches such a dimension or degree of destructiveness as to warrant the governor declaring a state of emergency pursuant to RCW 43.06.010.” Governor Christine Gregoire declared a state of emergency during the snow and ice storm of January 2012.

You and your family will be better prepared for any future emergencies if you develop a Family Emergency Communication Plan. Refer to the Newspapers In Education and TakeWinterByStorm.org websites for more information. Emergency Contact Cards are also available on the websites, translated into multiple languages. There are several online tools available that can help you reunite with your family and loved ones after an emergency, such as social media channels, Google Person Finder and American Red Cross “Safe and Well” registry.

Review and practice your family plan

If a natural disaster emergency — like a winter weather storm or a catastrophe — strikes tomorrow, will you and your family know what to do? Review and practice your Family Emergency Communication Plan. Discussion points:

- The information on your Emergency Contact Cards, such as key phone numbers and how to call your designated out-of-area contact
- Locations and contents of preparedness kits in your home, vehicles and places of work or school
- How and when to call 911
- How and when to turn off utilities such as gas and water
- Alternate transportation routes to and from home and key destinations
- Where to meet up with your family if you can't get home, and an out-of-neighborhood meeting place in case your neighborhood is damaged and you are unable to get to your home
- How to help family, friends, neighbors and pets who may need assistance or have special needs



WHEEDLE WEATHER PREPAREDNESS TIP
Is your Emergency Contact Card in your backpack? Does your teacher or school have your emergency contact information? Make sure everyone is aware of your family plan in case you are separated from one another during a natural disaster.



EMERGENCY CONTACTS

In the event of a natural disaster emergency, it can be much easier to reach someone out-of-area, such as a relative in another state. Your out-of-area contact can communicate with you about the location of other family members impacted. Before an emergency strikes, know your Emergency Contact Information:

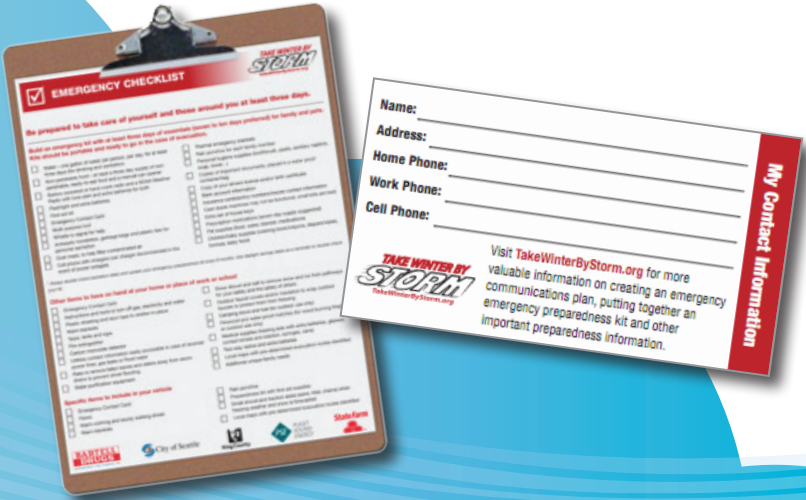
- Identify an out-of-area friend or relative and name that person as your emergency contact.
- Identify a safe meeting place outside of your neighborhood in case your neighborhood is damaged and your family is separated. Know the contact information for your out-of-neighborhood meeting place, too.
- Print and complete an Emergency Contact Card for your family now. (Downloadable at TakeWinterByStorm.org).
- Make copies of your Emergency Contact Card for every person in your family to place in their bags, backpacks and wallets so they have them at all times.
- Post your completed Emergency Contact Card by your home phone.
- Cell phones may not be able to make calls, but the text message capability often works during emergencies. Know how to text message in case of an emergency.
- During an emergency it will likely take extra time to connect using a cellular phone (which will cause a drain on your battery), so have a plan for recharging if the power is out.
- Keep a corded phone in your home. Using a corded phone is the most reliable communication device during an emergency.

Do any of your family members remember the Columbus Day Storm of 1962? What do they remember about it? How did they prepare? Interview a relative and record his or her experience with your parents at Facebook.com/TakeWinterByStorm.



	SCHEDULE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Columbus Day Storm/emergency preparedness
<input type="checkbox"/>	Windstorms and power outages
<input type="checkbox"/>	Heavy rainstorms
<input type="checkbox"/>	Snow, ice and freezing temperatures

Reference: <http://apps.leg.wa.gov/rcw/default.aspx?cite=38.52.010>



COMING SOON!
In next week’s Take Winter By Storm issue, we’ll share strategies to help you prepare for windstorms and power outages.

Take Winter By Storm is a collaborative, public-private effort between King, Pierce, Snohomish and Kitsap counties, the City of Seattle, Puget Sound Energy, State Farm, National Weather Service/NOAA, American Red Cross, Bartell Drugs and various local retailers — which represent Washington state’s largest counties and city emergency management offices and energy utilities, the leading insurer of homes and automobiles, weather forecasters, first responders during natural disaster occurrences and local businesses. These organizations have joined forces in this major public education program to raise community awareness of hazardous weather and help protect lives and property.

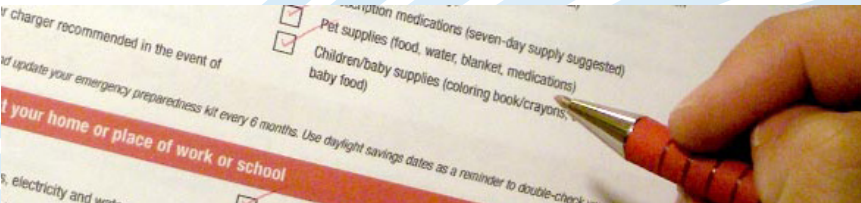
WINDSTORMS



Last week, you learned about developing a family emergency-preparedness plan for winter weather emergencies. Windstorms such as the Columbus Day Storm of 1962 can cause events that are potentially very dangerous and put us in emergency situations. Getting prepared prior to windstorms occurring will keep us safe and comfortable. Today, let's take a look at how you can be prepared for windstorms.

A windstorm like the Columbus Day Storm of 1962 can impact the community in many ways. Below are some of the risks associated with a major windstorm:

- Downed trees
- Blowing debris
- Electrocution from downed power lines
- Possibility of loss of electricity, water, gas and other utilities including phone/cell service
- Carbon monoxide poisoning from using charcoal grills inside the home to cook/heat or from improper generator ventilation
- Food spoiling in the refrigerator/freezer because of power failure
- Loss of life (hit by trees, touching downed power lines) or injuries
- Lack of communication due to lack of power for cell and cordless phones
- Damaged buildings
- Power outages for an extended period of time
- Transportation routes affected by downed trees, structures and power lines



Use Take Winter By Storm checklists to prepare **prior** to winter storms. You can find detailed lists, Emergency Contact Cards in multiple languages, and additional resources and tips in our Teacher's Guide at seattletimes.com/NIE and at TakeWinterByStorm.org.

POWER OUTAGES

During windstorms, power outages in particular can be the source of much danger. What should you do in a power outage?

- Report power outages or downed power lines as soon as they occur by calling your utility company.
- If your power goes out, use flashlights. Avoid candles, oil lamps or anything with an open flame.
- Use light sticks or small flashlights as landing strips for trip-prone areas in your home. Pick up clutter from floors to avoid stubbed toes.
- Keep your contact devices (cellphones, smartphones, laptops) fully charged in case of a power outage or prior to heading out into the elements for an extended length of time. To ensure backup, bring chargers for contact devices with you.
- The best form of communication during a power outage is a land line with a corded phone. It doesn't need to be charged!



WHEELLE WEATHER PREPAREDNESS TIP

Keep one or more power outage go-to places in your home stocked with a small flashlight, extra batteries and utility contact information. If the power goes out, go to that place first. Home communication centers, junk drawers, bedside tables, etc., make great locations.

POWER LINE SAFETY

Yikes! That's still HOT! Did you know that a downed power line can cause the ground around it to be energized? Follow these tips to stay safe around downed power lines:

- Assume it is live. Never touch a downed power line or anything near it.
- Stay as far away from it as you can and immediately call your local utility.
- If you find yourself near a downed power line, shuffle your feet away from the power line to avoid ground shock.
- Do not drive over downed power lines. Should a power line fall on your car when you're inside it, stay in the car until help arrives.
- If you must leave your car because of fire or other danger, jump away from the vehicle so that you do not touch the vehicle and ground at the same time. Land with your feet together and shuffle your feet away from the line to a safe location.



WHEELLE WEATHER PREPAREDNESS TIP

Do the shuffle! Too close to a downed power line? Dance away by keeping both feet on the ground and shuffling them away from the downed power line. (Bet you never thought knowing a dance would be part of winter-weather preparedness!)

WHAT IS CARBON MONOXIDE POISONING?

Carbon monoxide poisoning occurs after enough inhalation of carbon monoxide (CO), a toxic gas. It is very difficult for people to detect carbon monoxide because it is colorless, odorless, tasteless and, initially, non-irritating. Carbon monoxide is a product of incomplete combustion of organic matter due to insufficient oxygen supply to enable complete oxidation to carbon dioxide (CO2). Carbon monoxide is produced by charcoal and gasoline-powered tools, heaters and cooking equipment, such as charcoal grills, barbeques and generators. Exposures at 100 parts per million or greater can be dangerous to human health.

Symptoms of mild acute poisoning include lightheadedness, confusion, headaches, vertigo and flu-like effects; larger exposures can lead to significant toxicity of the central nervous system and heart, and even death.

During prolonged power outages, the need for food and heat — if you are not prepared — can cause people to become forgetful of the dangers of carbon monoxide poisoning. Use these rules to protect your family:

- Never use charcoal or gas grills as an indoor heating or cooking source. They can cause carbon monoxide poisoning.
- Follow manufacturer's instructions when operating a generator.
- Test the operation of generators prior to a power outage and review manufacturer recommendations on connections and fueling. Set up generators outdoors and far from doors, windows and vents that could allow carbon monoxide to come indoors.
- Never use a generator inside homes, garages, crawl spaces, sheds or similar areas. Deadly levels of carbon monoxide can quickly build up in these areas and can linger for hours, even after the generator has shut off.
- Install battery-operated carbon monoxide alarms or plug-in carbon monoxide alarms with battery backup in your home, according to the manufacturer's instructions. Test batteries often.

WHEELLE WEATHER PREPAREDNESS TIP
Plan ahead! Keep plenty of nonperishable food and water in your preparedness kit for each family member, along with warm winter clothing and extra blankets to keep you comfortable until the power returns. Don't forget personal medical needs and those who depend on you — like family pets! Detailed checklists are available at TakeWinterByStorm.org.



	SCHEDULE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Columbus Day Storm/emergency preparedness
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Windstorms and power outages
<input type="checkbox"/>	Heavy rainstorms
<input type="checkbox"/>	Snow, ice and freezing temperatures

COMING SOON!
In next week's Take Winter By Storm issue, we'll share strategies to help you prepare for heavy rains and flooding.

HEAVY RAIN STORMS

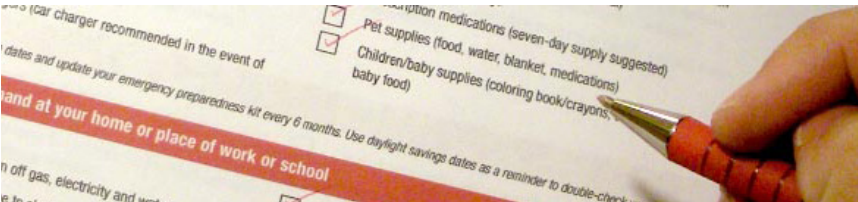


Last week, you learned about the hazards of windstorms and precautions you should take during power outages to keep safe. Different types of wild Northwest winter weather require different precautions. Today, let's take a look at how you can be prepared for heavy rainstorms.

Whether it's a torrential downpour or a prolonged rainfall buildup lasting several days, heavy rains impact people, homes and the land they sit on differently based on the location. Below are some of the risks associated with a heavy rainstorm:

- Street flooding, causing deep, standing puddles on roadways and dangerous driving conditions
- Basement flooding, causing loss of valuables and dangerous situations
- Transportation routes affected by flooding over roadways and landslides
- Evacuation orders due to flooding rivers
- Damaged buildings due to severe flooding
- Landslides causing severe damage, even loss, to homes
- Prolonged power outages due to downed lines caused by landslides and flooding rivers

Be prepared for a rainstorm by watching weather forecasts with your family for the potential of heavy rains or rainfall buildup over multiple days. Keep rain gear, water-repellent clothing and extra warm clothing handy at home and in your family's vehicle to use in an emergency.



Use Take Winter By Storm checklists to prepare prior to winter storms. You can find detailed lists, Emergency Contact Cards in multiple languages, and additional resources and tips in our Teacher's Guide at seattletimes.com/NIE and at TakeWinterByStorm.org.

DRAINAGE/LANDSLIDES

- Help keep storm drains clear of leaves and debris to avoid flooding streets and damage to personal property.
- Watch the patterns of stormwater drainage on slopes near your home, and note places where runoff water converges.
- Grade property so water drains away from the foundation and downspouts direct water away from the property into the storm drainage system.
- Ask your family to double-check their homeowner's policy to see whether stormwater damage is covered. If not, add this coverage.
- Watch the hills around your home for any signs of land movement, such as small landslides, debris flows or progressively tilting trees. If necessary, ask your family to contact your local geotechnical or structural engineer to determine the severity of the problem.



WHEELIE WEATHER PREPAREDNESS TIP
Keep it moving! Don't let water build up on roads and property. Rake and shovel leaves and debris away from storm drains and ditches to keep water draining.



WHEELIE WEATHER PREPAREDNESS TIP
Turn around! Don't drown! Flooded areas could be much deeper than you think. Don't take a chance by walking or driving through flooded areas. Turn around and move to higher ground.



FLOODING

- Turn around! Don't drown! Never walk or drive through flooded roads or areas. You can't always tell how deep the water might be, if a road has been washed away or if there are hazards beneath the surface.
- Report flooding drains and streets as soon as possible.
- Store valuables on high shelves on a ground floor or on the top floors of your home to avoid water damage.
- Stay out of flooding basements. Flooding basements can cause electrocution by live electrical currents and drowning due to an unforeseen flash flood or mud slide.
- If you live, work or go to school near rivers that are prone to flooding, be prepared and know several routes to higher ground. Have an emergency kit ready to grab and go in case of evacuation.
- Homeowners, renters and businesses should purchase flood insurance.
- Be safe. Follow evacuation and other official directions during flood emergencies.

- Update your pet's ID tag and/or get them micro chipped. In case you need to evacuate and you are separated from your pet, this will make finding them easier.
- Choose an out-of-state contact for your family and make sure everyone knows who that person is and how to contact them. Practice making contact with your out-of-state contact prior to an emergency.
- Got sandbags? If you live in an area that typically floods, you should prepare sandbags to place around your home in case the need arises.
- Sign up for flood alerts. Got to takewinterbystorm.org and click on the Alerts button to find alerts in your area.

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In next week's Take Winter By Storm issue, we'll share strategies to help you prepare for snow, ice and freezing temperatures.

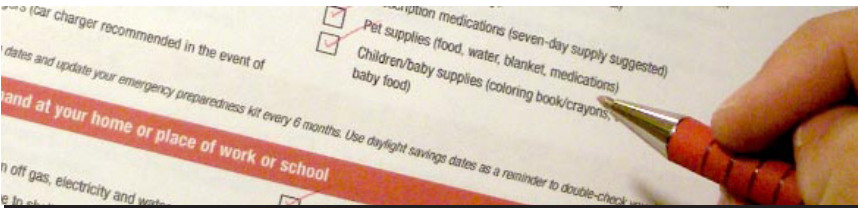
SNOW, ICE AND FREEZING TEMPERATURES



Last week, you learned about the hazards of heavy rainstorms and precautions you should take during flooding situations to keep safe. Like heavy rainstorms, different types of Northwest weather require different precautions. Today, let's take a look at how you can be prepared for snow, ice and freezing temperatures.

Freezing temperatures wreak havoc on the Northwest. Our hilly roads ice up and create dangerous driving situations for those in personal and public transportation vehicles. Snowstorms create a buildup of snow that is fun to play in, but hard to remove during treacherous driving conditions. We're not accustomed to extreme freezing temperatures, so we have to prepare ourselves and our homes. Below are some of the risks associated with freezing temperatures, snow and ice storms:

- Extremely treacherous driving conditions
- Transportation routes severely affected and closed by snow covered and iced over roadways
- Public transportation rerouted to snow routes and/or service cancellations
- Power outages due to snapped lines from frozen trees and limbs
- Damaged homes and buildings due to frozen pipes that can rupture and cause internal flooding as they thaw
- Freezing temperatures that cause discomfort if you are not clothed properly



Use Take Winter By Storm checklists to prepare prior to winter storms occurring. You can find detailed lists and emergency contact cards in multiple languages, and additional resources and tips in our Teacher's Guide at seattletimes.com/NIE and at TakeWinterByStorm.org.

TRAVEL IN SNOW AND ICE

- Dress warmly and in layers, and wear footwear appropriate for the weather.
- When there's snow on the ground, don't travel unless you have to. Staying home will keep you and others safe.
- If you have to travel, stay on the main roads and travel with a shovel, bag of sand and chains.
- During periods of ice or snow, transit service may be rerouted, canceled or delayed. Know your bus snow route, but expect delays and the possibility of waiting outdoors longer than you would normally.
- Bus riders should wait at bus stops at the very top or very bottom of hills because buses are often unable to stop for passengers on inclines.
- Make a plan and backup plan for using public transportation when travel conditions worsen. Check transportation agency websites for winter travel information.
- Register for your local road and public transportation alerts.
- As temperatures drop, keep your vehicle gas tank at least half full.
- If you must abandon your car during a snowstorm, pull as far off the road as safely possible to avoid blocking other vehicles and snow-removal equipment.



WHEEDLE WEATHER PREPAREDNESS TIP
Get up-to-the-minute school closure information for Western Washington at TakeWinterByStorm.org.



WHEEDLE WEATHER PREPAREDNESS TIP
Plan ahead! If your family plans on traveling in snow and ice conditions, bring a preparedness kit with enough food, water, extra winter clothing and warm blankets for everyone in the vehicle, plus personal needs and emergency supplies. Fill the vehicle gas tank before your family leaves. A short car ride could extend into multiple hours on the road without any backup.

WHAT IS AN ICE STORM?

An ice storm is a type of winter storm characterized by freezing rain, also known as a glaze event or a silver thaw in some parts of the United States. The National Weather Service defines an ice storm as a storm that results in the accumulation of at least 0.25-inch of ice on exposed surfaces. Ice storms occur when a layer of warm air is between two layers of cold air. Frozen precipitation melts while falling into the warm air layer and then proceeds to refreeze in the cold layer above the ground. In January 2012, a deep blanket of snow fell across the Northwest, and then freezing rain fell on top of it, creating a thick layer of ice on top of the snow — otherwise known as an ice storm — which eventually resulted in Governor Christine Gregoire declaring a state of emergency.

BRRRR... HELP YOUR FAMILY GET READY FOR THE COLD!

- As temperatures drop, keep your vehicle gas tank at least half full.
- Gather and keep cold weather clothing and extra blankets handy at home and in your family's vehicle to use in an emergency to minimize heat loss.
- Keep portable heaters away from furniture, draperies and other flammable materials.
- Help your family disconnect garden hoses and wrap outdoor pipes and faucets to keep them from freezing.
- When temperatures drop below 32°F, ask your family to let warm water drip overnight, preferably from a faucet on an outside wall. A trickle of hot and cold water might be all it takes to keep your pipes from freezing.
- Open cabinet doors to allow heat to get to uninsulated pipes under sinks and appliances near exterior walls.
- Set the thermostat to no lower than 55°F (12°C).
- Help your family clear your sidewalks of snow and ice with salt, deicer and/or shoveling to avoid injuries on your property.
- Keep snow buildup off surfaces that could collapse, such as rooftops.
- Before you leave your home for travel, ask a friend or neighbor to check your house daily to make sure it's warm enough to prevent freezing.



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<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Columbus Day Storm/emergency preparedness
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