



**TAKE WINTER BY**  
**STORM**

[TakeWinterByStorm.org](http://TakeWinterByStorm.org)

**Wheedle  
is ready  
for winter.  
ARE YOU?**

☒ Look inside for useful winter weather preparedness tips and checklists for you and your family

Hey, kids: Special collector pullout with Wheedle story and poster inside!



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Produced by The Seattle Times Advertising Department in partnership with Take Winter By Storm and Bartell Drugs





## Be prepared for severe weather

Winter storms are something we can count on happening every year here in Western Washington. Whether they create a minor inconvenience or result in days without power, we all need to be ready to “take winter by storm.” The steps we take today to plan for floods, windstorms and freezing temperatures also prepare us for more serious emergencies, such as earthquakes and man-made disasters.

Disaster planning consists of three simple steps:

### 1. Make a plan

Everyone, including kids, should have a plan for how they will communicate during an emergency and where they will meet family members if separated.

- Establish an out-of-area contact. This should be someone out of state who each family member can contact to communicate his or her well-being.

- In emergencies, texting will often work, even if



KING COUNTY

phone calls can’t go through.

- If cell towers are down, land lines may work. Long-distance calls may go through even if local calls don’t.

- Establish a meeting place near your home where family members will go if it’s not safe to stay in your home.

### 2. Build a kit

Having basic supplies on hand not only will keep you alive, but also will make you more comfortable during the first few days of a disaster.

Many of the items you’ll need are already in your

home. Set aside a minimum three-day supply of these items:

- Nonperishable, ready-to-eat food
- Drinkable water (1 gallon per person per day)
- Medications and personal hygiene items
- You’ll also want to pack:
  - Radio (battery-powered or hand-crank style)
  - Flashlight; extra batteries
  - Sturdy shoes and warm clothing
  - First-aid kit
  - Blanket
  - Whistle



### DOWNLOAD

Winter driving and public-transport tips at [TakeWinterByStorm.org](http://TakeWinterByStorm.org)

- Toys and comfort items for kids and pets

Putting these items together in one place will ensure that you will have what you need, quickly. You should have emergency kits for your home, vehicle, work and school — anywhere you spend long periods of time. A complete checklist can be downloaded at [TakeWinterByStorm.org](http://TakeWinterByStorm.org).

### 3. Get involved

Resilient communities don’t just happen; they are built by individuals working together and staying informed.

- Get to know your neighbors. A trusted friend next door can keep an eye on your property and take care of your kids or pets if an emergency keeps you from getting home.

- Volunteer to serve on your local Community Emergency Response Team or the American Red Cross. Volunteers receive training and resources to help address immediate needs until emergency personnel are able to respond.

- Learn CPR and basic first aid — it can make the difference between life and death for someone close to you.

- Attend local disaster preparedness fairs to learn about local services and resources from emergency responders and disaster planning experts.

- Register for your city’s or county’s automated emergency alert system.

Being prepared for winter emergencies and other disasters not only protects people and property, but also provides peace of mind. We can’t stop disasters from happening, but we can prepare to survive them. Take steps today to plan for how you will weather this winter storm season.

— Lynne Miller, King County Office of Emergency Management

## Convergence zone intensifies impact of storms

The Puget Sound convergence zone occurs when westerly winds in the lower atmosphere split around the Olympic Mountains, then intersect again over Puget Sound, causing updrafts. Those updrafts can lead to increased rain showers or more active weather, including stronger winds, colder

temperatures and heavier snowfalls, according to local weather forecasters.

This can lead to higher accumulations of snow and ice — that stick around longer — on roadways in north King and Snohomish counties, where the convergence zone typically occurs. The strong winds from

the convergence zone also can result in longer utility interruptions, while heavier rains can lead to more severe flooding and extended travel disruptions.

Emergency management officials encourage residents, particularly those in Snohomish and King counties, to stockpile

supplies, pay attention to weather reports and prepare communication plans with family members to respond quickly to changing winter weather patterns.

Travelers should also have basic supplies in their cars. Inter-county commuters should keep a basic supply of water, food and comfort

items in their vehicles or, if using transit, a small supply with them.

Commuters should also remember to bring sturdy winter footwear in case they have to walk to another location for assistance.

— Dara Salmon, Snohomish County Dept. of Emergency Management



Take Winter By Storm is a public-private cooperative program helping people get better prepared for winter storms. Cooperative partners of this year’s program include:



### TAKE WINTER BY STORM

This section was produced by the Advertising Publications Department of The Seattle Times. Contact us at 206-464-2400 or [advertising@seattletimes.com](mailto:advertising@seattletimes.com).

Content was provided by the Take Winter By Storm campaign.

# Deadly wind blew here 50 years ago

**Q:** What was the Columbus Day Storm of 1962?

**A:** The Columbus Day Storm was the strongest non-tropical windstorm ever to hit the Lower 48 in American history. Winds peaked at 150 mph along the Oregon and Washington coasts, with gusts of more than 100 mph in many parts of the Western Washington interior.

**Q:** What were the implications for those who were not prepared?

**A:** This region gets hit by strong windstorms periodically, but nothing like this before. The storm killed 46 people, injured hundreds more, destroyed several thousand buildings and blew down more than 15 billion board-feet of timber from Northern California to southwest British Columbia, and as far east as western Montana.

Millions of people lost power and phone services; some did not

have their services restored for several weeks.

Imagine being without power and phone service for an extended period of time and, with trees down all over the place, not being able to go anywhere. Those were the conditions for many in the wake of the Columbus Day Storm.

**Q:** If a storm of that size came through this area again, how would our infrastructure of today hold up? What would the implications be for those who are unprepared?

**A:** Washington state's population grew from 3 million people in 1962 to 6.8 million people today. In Western Washington alone, the population went from 2.1 million to 5.25 million.

The infrastructure to support the much larger population has grown dramatically. For example, in 1962, Interstate 5 was incomplete, and the segments through



## BE PREPARED

See pages 4-5 for a complete Emergency Checklist or download it at [TakeWinterByStorm.org](http://TakeWinterByStorm.org)

Seattle and Tacoma were not yet built. Highway 99 was still the main north-south arterial in Western Washington. The Evergreen Point Bridge was also under construction.

The power system today is much larger than in 1962. Far more development has occurred in more rural areas, such as the Cascade foothills.

So much of our infrastructure — our power supply, cell and land line phone service, and even our floating bridges — would be vulnerable in a repeat of such a massive windstorm.

**Q:** What weather technology tools are in activation now — or are coming in the future — that will help us become more knowledgeable and better prepared for weather disasters?

**A:** In 1962, the computer age was in its infancy — weather technology has evolved dramatically since then.

Today, there are next-generation weather satellites with higher-resolution imagery and sensors, dual-polarization Doppler weather radars, weather data buoys and ever-improving computer simulations of weather forecasts.

Meteorologists are better trained in the science today than they were 50 years ago as well. Large, impactful events such as the Columbus Day Storm are far better forecasted today with greater lead time, allowing communities to better prepare in advance for such storms.

Massive storms will still do a lot of damage, yet we can be more weather-ready for such events than a half century ago.

**Now it is your turn!** What do you need to do to better prepare at home, at work, at school and on the road? It is not a question of if, but when the next big storm will hit our area.

Washington state is among the nation's leaders in presidentially declared weather-related disasters. The state averages a little more than one such disaster per year going back to 1950, including floods, windstorms, snow/ice storms, wildfires and landslides.

Will you and your family be ready for the next weather event or natural disaster to strike our area? Now is the time to prepare.

—Ted Buehner, Warning Coordination Meteorologist, National Weather Service — Seattle/Tacoma

SEATTLE CITY LIGHT  
6 x 5



## EMERGENCY CHECKLIST

**Be prepared to take care of yourself and those around you. Build an emergency kit with at least three days' worth of essentials (seven to ten days preferred) for your family and pets. Kits should be portable and ready to go in case of evacuation.**

- ☐ Water — one gallon of water per person per day for at least three days (for drinking and sanitation)
- ☐ Food — at least a three-day supply of non-perishable, ready-to-eat food and a manual can opener
- ☐ Battery-powered or hand-crank radio, NOAA Weather Radio with tone alert and extra batteries for both
- ☐ Flashlight and extra batteries
- ☐ First-aid kit
- ☐ Emergency Contact Card (page 6)
- ☐ Multipurpose tool
- ☐ Whistle to signal for help
- ☐ Antiseptic towelettes, garbage bags and plastic ties for personal sanitation
- ☐ Dust mask, to help filter contaminated air
- ☐ Cell phone with chargers (car charger recommended in the event of power outages)
- ☐ Thermal emergency blankets
- ☐ Rain ponchos
- ☐ Personal hygiene supplies (toothbrush, toothpaste, sanitary napkins, soap, towels, etc.)
- ☐ Copies of important documents, placed in a waterproof container or bag, including:
  - Copy of your driver's license and/or birth certificate
  - Bank account information
  - Insurance cards, policy numbers and insurer contact information

- ☐ Cash (bank machines may not be functional; small bills are best)
- ☐ Extra set of house keys
- ☐ Prescription medications (seven-day supply suggested)
- ☐ Pet supplies (food, water, blanket, medications)
- ☐ Children's/baby supplies (coloring book/crayons, diapers/wipes, formula, baby food)

Always check expiration dates and update your emergency preparedness kit every six months. Use daylight-saving dates as a reminder to check your kit.

### Other items to have on hand at home and at work or school

- ☐ Emergency Contact Card (page 6)
- ☐ Instructions and tools to turn off gas, electricity and water
- ☐ Plastic sheeting and duct tape to shelter-in-place
- ☐ Warm blankets
- ☐ Tarps, tents and rope
- ☐ Fire extinguisher



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### Items to include in your vehicle

- ☐ Emergency Contact Card (page 6)
- ☐ Flares
- ☐ Warm clothing and sturdy walking shoes
- ☐ Warm blankets
- ☐ Rain ponchos
- ☐ Preparedness kit with first-aid supplies
- ☐ Small shovel and traction aids (sand, cat litter, chains) when freezing weather and snow is forecast
- ☐ Local maps with predetermined evacuation routes identified

### Create and follow a weatherization/risk-management plan for your home or property to minimize storm impacts

- ☐ Conduct annual reviews of your property insurance to understand and address coverage needs, and ask about flood insurance or coverage for sewer/drain backup
- ☐ Complete a detailed home inventory of your possessions and keep in a safe place away from your home (like a safe deposit box); download inventory form at [TakeWinterByStorm.org](http://TakeWinterByStorm.org)

### Outdoors

- ☐ Check your roof for loose, missing, worn or damaged shingles to eliminate flying debris and reduce the chance of possible water damage
- ☐ Check for loose handrails, banisters and stair coverings and repair buckled or cracked walks
- ☐ Clean gutters and make sure they are properly aligned and securely attached to your home
- ☐ Grade property so water drains away from the foundation and downspouts direct water away from the house into the storm drainage system

- ☐ Carbon monoxide detector
- ☐ Utilities' contact information easily accessible in case of downed power lines, gas leaks or floodwater
- ☐ Rake to remove fallen leaves and debris from storm drains to prevent street flooding
- ☐ Water-purification equipment
- ☐ Snow shovel and salt to remove snow and ice from pathways
- ☐ Outdoor faucet covers and/or insulation to wrap outdoor faucets to protect them from freezing
- ☐ Camping stove and fuel (for outdoor use only)
- ☐ Firewood and waterproof matches (for wood-burning fireplace or outdoor use only)
- ☐ Medical supplies (hearing aids with extra batteries, glasses, contact lenses and solution, syringes, cane)
- ☐ Two-way radios and extra batteries
- ☐ Local maps with predetermined evacuation routes identified
- ☐ Additional unique family needs



# TAKE WINTER BY STORM

- ☐ Make sure flashing is secure around vents and chimneys
- ☐ Watch the patterns of stormwater drainage on slopes near your home, and note the places where runoff water converges; watch the hills around your home for any signs of land movement, such as small landslides, debris flows or progressively tilting trees — contact your local geotechnical or structural engineer to determine the severity of the problem
- ☐ Replace weatherstripping and caulk that has lost contact with surfaces
- ☐ Rake leaves away from drains to avoid street and property flooding
- ☐ Clear snow and ice from sidewalks in front of your home to avoid dangerous falls (this is the home/property owner's responsibility)
- ☐ Keep snow buildup off of surfaces that could collapse
- ☐ Trim shrubbery away from siding to prevent insect and moisture damage and remove shrubbery that interferes with walkways
- ☐ Insulate exposed water pipes and outdoor faucets to protect them from freezing



## Indoors

- ☐ Check smoke and carbon monoxide detectors and change batteries as needed; replace units every eight years
- ☐ Check basement and crawl space for dampness and leakage; standing water could be a sign of improper drainage
- ☐ Check all windows for proper operation and locking capability
- ☐ Test your sump pump before the start of every wet season; battery-operated backup sump pumps can help protect against power failure of the primary pump

## Make a family communication plan

- ☐ Discuss with your family and/or friends how to prepare for and respond to emergencies that are most likely to happen where you live, learn, work and play. Identify responsibilities for each member of your household and plan to work together as a team.
- ☐ Identify an out-of-area contact. After a disaster, long-distance phone lines may be more reliable than local lines. Ask a friend or relative who lives out of state to be your “family contact.” After a disaster, your family contact becomes a communication point to share information with all household members. Your plan depends on everyone knowing your contact's phone number.
- ☐ Complete a Family Communication Plan (download plans at [TakeWinterByStorm.org](http://TakeWinterByStorm.org)) and post in places your family spends most of their time.



- ☐ Program emergency contact numbers into all of your phones or keep a list with you. Make sure to tell your family and friends that you've listed them as emergency contacts.
- ☐ Use text messaging if network disruptions are keeping phone calls from going through. Wireless phones will not work if the electricity is out. Corded (also known as land line) phones are the most reliable.
- ☐ Stay informed. Tune in to local media channels for important updates and directives. Go to [TakeWinterByStorm.org](http://TakeWinterByStorm.org) for links on how to register for emergency alert systems in your area.

Let your family and friends know about [TakeWinterByStorm.org](http://TakeWinterByStorm.org). This Internet-based resource and educational tool has been helping to protect people and property for more than five years.

## KING COUNTY EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

3 x 5

## AMERICAN RED CROSS

3 x 5

# TAKE WINTER BY STORM

## Emergency Contact Card

Print out a card for every member of your household and for all of your preparedness sites. Cards can be downloaded to print at TakeWinterByStorm.org. Fill in your emergency contact information. Carry this card with you and keep one in your preparedness kit, home communication center, automobile and your workplace or school to reference in the event of an emergency.

Important Phone Numbers	My Contact Information	Emergency Contacts	Meeting Place Information
Police: 9-1-1 or Fire: 9-1-1 or Ambulance: 9-1-1 or Poison Control Center: 1-800-222-1222 Healthcare Provider: Insurance Provider: Utilities (gas, electricity, water):	Name: _____ Address: _____ Home Phone: _____ Work Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____  Visit <b>TakeWinterByStorm.org</b> for more valuable information on creating an emergency communications plan, putting together an emergency preparedness kit and other important preparedness information.	<b>Local Contact</b> Name: _____ Phone (day): _____ Phone (night): _____ Address: _____  <b>Out-of-area Contact</b> Name: _____ Phone (day): _____ Phone (night): _____	<b>Meeting Place Outside of Neighborhood</b> Location Name: _____ Phone: _____ Address: _____  <b>Other</b> _____ _____ _____ _____

# American Red Cross is here, ready to help

The American Red Cross is dedicated to serving you and your family. Last January, when a major winter storm hit the Puget Sound area, the Red Cross immediately took action, opening shelters, distributing safety information and providing food to those in need.

An emergency can strike anyone at any time. Whether it's a winter storm, flood or earthquake, the Red Cross can help ensure you, your family and your co-workers are well prepared.

The Red Cross offers a variety of emergency preparedness programs to meet any individual, business or group's specific preparedness needs.

## Group training

If you have a group of 10 or more employees, the Red Cross will come to your business to offer free preparedness training. Most group presentations last about 60 minutes and can cover a wide array of topics, from general preparedness to building inexpensive disaster kits.

## Workplace training

The Red Cross also provides free workplace disaster preparedness training. Up to 40 percent of businesses never reopen their doors after a disaster strikes. As your expert preparedness partner, the Red Cross can help you and your business prepare for nearly anything that may come your way. Our training addresses personal and workplace emergency preparedness, as well as business continuity planning.



An American Red Cross volunteer prepares food supplies for a snow and ice-storm shelter in January 2012.

## PREPARE TO HELP

The Red Cross offers a variety of certified emergency response courses — first aid, CPR and AED training, lifeguarding, babysitting, wilderness first aid, and other life-saving training. Each year, more than 9 million people gain the skills they need to prepare for and respond to emergencies through Red Cross training.

If you can't get to a training session in person, visit us online or download one of our apps. The Red Cross has a variety of online interactive preparedness modules, and our apps put expert tips, help and safety information at your fingertips.

**For more information,** visit [redcross.org](http://redcross.org) or call 800-RED-CROSS.

## Youth training

Children and young adults play a vital role in helping the Red Cross prepare the community for emergencies. The Red Cross works

closely with schools, Scouts and youth groups. By giving young people the opportunity to learn about preparedness and practice basic first-aid techniques, the Red Cross gives children and young adults the skills to respond to emergencies quickly and intelligently.

With your support, the Red Cross is here every day for our community. We are a nonprofit organization that relies on the generosity of the local community to help us prevent, prepare for and respond to emergencies. If you have a passion for helping others, please consider making a financial donation or becoming a Red Cross volunteer today.

— The American Red Cross



## DOWNLOAD

Preparedness tips on a budget worksheet at [TakeWinterByStorm.org](http://TakeWinterByStorm.org)



EST. 1974 • SEATTLE, WASH.

SPECIAL PULLOUT!

# Wheedle Whirled



## WEATHER REPORT



Wheedle is ready for winter! Find the pullout poster inside.

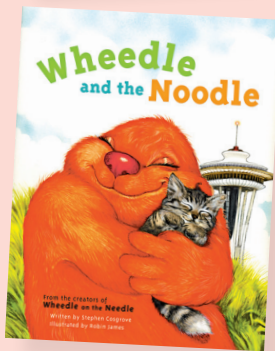
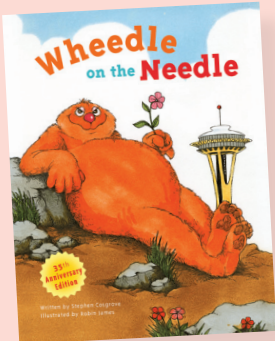
Pages 8-9

## INSIDE WHIRLED

Useful stuff to have around to help keep you safe and sound!

Page 10

## WHEEDLE ARCHIVES



Find the complete story of "Wheedle on the Needle" and "Wheedle and the Noodle" from Sasquatch Books at fine book retailers and now at Bartell Drugs!

## WHEEDLE PEOPLE

**Stephen Cosgrove**  
stephencosgrove.com  
**Robin James**  
robin@artisttreegallery



# WHEEDLE WAKES

## JOINS 'TAKE WINTER BY STORM'



Wheedle wakes to join Take Winter By Storm.

As reported by Stephen Cosgrove

*There's a Wheedle on the Needle,  
I know just what you're thinking,  
but if you look up late at night  
you'll see his red nose blinking.*

*Once upon forever  
T. Wheedle lived on Mount Rainier,  
but the noise of happy whistling  
was shrill upon his ears.*

*He packed his bag with stormy  
clouds  
and thundered into town,  
then climbed up on the Needle  
and let the rain pour down.*



*But the Seattle folk sewed a gift;  
cooperation did abound.  
They made a pair of earmuffs  
to muffle all the sounds.*

*But just before he fell asleep  
so many years ago,  
the sky flashed bright with  
lightning streaks  
and the wind began to blow.*

*The biggest storm in history  
tore through the great Northwest.  
A storm with mighty winds and  
rain;  
scary in excess.*

*Limbs of trees and houses  
went soaring through the air.  
Shingles, leaves, and parts of cars  
were flying everywhere.*

*That storm is but a memory  
But the Wheedle is still very scared.  
And every day he promises,  
"Next time I'll be prepared."*

*For the Wheedle knows as should  
you,  
big storms will happen again.  
The Wheedle knows, as so should  
you,  
it's not an IF, but WHEN.*

*He's made a list of preparedness  
things to keep you safe and warm.  
So read and follow T. Wheedle's list  
at the site Take Winter By Storm.*

*One last thing,  
lest I forget:  
store some food  
and a toy for your pet.*





THE WHEEDLE  
TAKES WINTER BY

SCARI







**DOWNLOAD**

Winter Preparedness Checklist  
[TakeWinterByStorm.org](http://TakeWinterByStorm.org)

**TAKE WINTER BY**  
***STORM***



# Wheedle helps you get ready

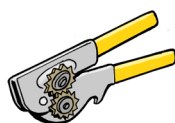
Basics to pack in your preparedness kits for your home, school or work and vehicle:



- ☐ Water — one gallon of water per person per day for at least three days



- ☐ Antiseptic towelettes



- ☐ Can opener



- ☐ Cash

- ☐ Non-perishable food — at least a three-day supply

- ☐ Multi-purpose tool

- ☐ Garbage bags with plastic ties

- ☐ Flashlight

- ☐ Dust mask

- ☐ Paper and pencil for notes

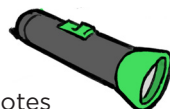
- ☐ Rain ponchos

- ☐ NOAA Weather Radio with tone alert

- ☐ Personal hygiene supplies (toothbrush, toothpaste, sanitary napkins, soap, towel, etc.)

- ☐ Prescription medications (seven-day supply suggested)

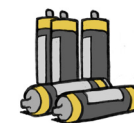
- ☐ Children/baby supplies (diapers/wipes, formula, baby food, coloring book/crayons)



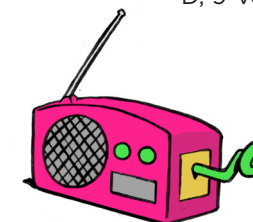
- ☐ First-aid kit



- ☐ Whistle



- ☐ Batteries (AAA, AA, C, D, 9-volt)



- ☐ Battery-powered radio or hand-crank radio with USB hand-crank charger



- ☐ Blankets for each person



- ☐ Pet supplies (food, water, blanket, medications)



- ☐ Cell phone charger



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## Other useful items to have on hand:

- ☐ 7-gallon water-holding container

- ☐ Plastic sheeting and duct tape

- ☐ Additional blankets

- ☐ Fire extinguisher

- ☐ Carbon monoxide detector

- ☐ Wrench or pliers to turn off utilities

- ☐ Rake

- ☐ Snow shovel

- ☐ De-icer

- ☐ Sand/non-clumping litter



- ☐ Outdoor faucet insulation materials/covers

- ☐ Camping stove and fuel (for outdoor use only)

- ☐ Firewood and water-proof matches (for wood burning fireplace or outdoor use only)

- ☐ Water purification equipment

- ☐ Medical supplies (hearing aids and batteries, glasses, contact lenses and solution, syringes, cane)

- ☐ Emergency reference materials such as a first aid book

- ☐ Two-way radios

- ☐ Household liquid chlorine bleach (unscented with no added cleaners) and medicine dropper  
*You can use bleach as a disinfectant (dilute nine parts water to one part bleach). If you can't boil water, in an emergency you can also use bleach to purify water. Add 1/8 teaspoon (or 8 drops) of regular, unscented, liquid household bleach for each gallon of water, stir it well and let it stand for 30 minutes.*

- ☐ Extra batteries (AAA, AA, C, D, 9-volt)

- ☐ Safety beacon/flashing light







Caring for a pet includes making plans for it in case of a winter weather event or emergency.

## Your best friend is counting on you

Pets are often man's, woman's and child's best friend — and you wouldn't leave your best friend behind in an emergency, would you?

Planning for what you would do in a disaster is critical, including what to do if your dog, cat, horse or other beloved furry, feathered or scaly family member needed help.

Make sure your pet has an identification tag, ideally with its name, your name, your address and the phone number where you are most likely to be reached if you are not with your pet. This is often a mobile number. A license tag can identify your pet as well.

Identify a location where your pet may be welcome if you need to evacuate your home.



**DOWNLOAD**  
Pet Preparedness  
Checklist  
[TakeWinterByStorm.org](http://TakeWinterByStorm.org)

Check websites that identify pet-friendly hotels or motels. Discuss with your extended family members or friends whether they can accommodate you and your animals during an emergency.

Regional veterinary clinics or other pet-boarding facilities are additional resources to contact during emergency evacuations.

Identify alternative pastures for your herds if you own livestock.

If dangerous weather or flooding conditions exist or an evacuation order for

your area has been issued by officials, leave the area immediately and take your pets with you.

Emergency responders often see pet owners attempting to return home during disasters to rescue a pet left behind, despite the presence of danger. This action puts lives at risk — the pet owner and the person sent to rescue them.

Planning protects you, your pets and all the animals that depend on you.

— Gene Mueller, DVM, MPH,  
King County Regional Animal  
Services Manager

For more information about disaster planning for your pet, visit the pet page on [TakeWinterByStorm.org](http://TakeWinterByStorm.org)

## FOOD INSURANCE 3 x 10.5

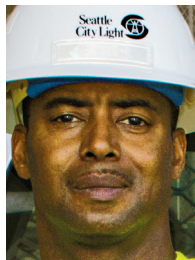


## Seattle City Light takes wind by storm

Every Seattle City Light lineworker knows that winter's approach is certain to bring storms to the Pacific Northwest that will pound the region with strong winds that can lead to power outages.

And they are ready to answer the call.

"Even while our families may be home in the dark, City Light lineworkers will be out there working to restore your power as soon as possible," Crew Chief Michael Brooks says.



Brooks

Seattle City Light has been doing its part to reduce this risk by clearing vegetation away from hundreds of miles of power lines, but there is no way to completely avoid problems when trees start swaying and branches start breaking.

You, our customers, also have a big role in staying safe during storm season by being prepared.

"All of us living here in the Pacific Northwest know we're going to experience storms that will knock down trees and damage power lines," City Light Superintendent

Jorge Carrasco says. "That's why it's important to prepare now."

When the power is out, the lights aren't the only things that won't work. Your home might not have heat. You won't be able to cook with an electric stove or microwave. That cordless phone will go dead, too. And it could take a while before service is restored.

Big storms can cause damage that takes days for crews to repair and restore the power. Last January, an ice storm caused extensive damage to the Puget Sound area, leaving many without power, some for more than a week. City Light was fortunate to have few outages, in part, because our tree trimming paid off. The longest any customer was without power was 21 hours.

City Light practices its storm response regularly to ensure that its crews, dispatchers and other employees are ready to respond quickly and efficiently. City Light's Incident Management Team, which leads the response to big storms and other emergencies, meets monthly to discuss the utility's readiness, participates in preparedness exercises and looks for opportunities to improve the utility's performance.

When City Light's distribution



PHOTOS FROM SEATTLE CITY LIGHT

Seattle City Light works on downed power lines from a January storm.

system is damaged, crews prioritize repairs to get the most people back in service as quickly as possible.

Crews start by fixing damage to large distribution lines, called feeders, that serve several thousand customers; then move to smaller lines, called laterals, that provide service to several hundred; and finally, to the service lines that take power from a transformer to an individual home or business.

If you experience a power outage, first check your fuse box for a blown fuse or tripped circuit breaker. If this is not the cause, please report the outage by calling 206-684-3000. Just looking for information? Call our Power Outage Hotline at 206-684-7400. If your area isn't mentioned, please stay on the line to report it.

"Until the lights come back on, the first job for each of us is to

stay safe," Carrasco says. "A few simple preparations will make it a lot easier to ride out those storms, even without power."

The tips listed in this special section will help you and your family stay safe and warm until the power does come back on. Those with cell phones and a way to keep the battery charged can follow the estimated time that power will be restored by going to [m.seattle.gov/light/](http://m.seattle.gov/light/) and clicking on "Outage Map."

Once you're prepared, the next step is to talk with a relative, friend or neighbor about your storm readiness and create a plan for checking on each other in emergencies.

Fall and winter are also a good time to think about ways to save energy and keep your power bills low. You will likely be using more indoor lighting. Did you know that you could save up to \$150 a year on your electric bill by replacing just 33 incandescent light bulbs?

For more energy-saving tips, visit [seattle.gov/light/conserves/resident/cv5\\_faq.htm](http://seattle.gov/light/conserves/resident/cv5_faq.htm) or contact a Seattle City Light energy advisor at 206-684-3800.

— Scott Thomsen,  
Seattle City Light

## New SnoPUD energy center a hub for emergency response

The Snohomish County Public Utility District's new 37,000-square-foot Energy Control and Data Center (ECDC) ensures that the utility continues to bring its highest level of reliability to its customers.

Think of it as the utility's air-traffic-control center for energy management. It's the center of operations from which the PUD dispatches crews for re-

pairs, schedules upgrades and tackles major storms and emergencies.

"Our customer base has more than doubled in the 30 years since we built our last energy control center," says PUD General Manager Steve Klein. "As utilities across the country look to modernize the electrical grid, we also need to make sure our facilities are equipped for future

growth and can tap the tools and technologies coming online for the PUD and its customers."

When storms blow in, the center provides the PUD with the resources it needs to minimize impact on residents and businesses. It adds another layer of assurance that their lights will come on when needed.

— Neil Neroutsos,  
Snohomish Co. PUD







PUGET SOUND ENERGY

## Register to be alerted by your city, county emergency systems

This is the time of year when people start to get ready for winter, and start thinking about winterizing their homes and their cars, and begin pulling out their winter clothing and putting away their shorts and T-shirts. Emergency Management offices would like to encourage all residents to take this time to also review, and if needed, create their emergency plans and kits and sign up for their county

emergency alert systems.

King, Kitsap, Pierce and Snohomish Counties have emergency alert and notification systems that allow information about local emergencies to be sent to those who may be affected by it. Following your county's social media outlets is also advisable.

— Sheri Badger, Pierce County Emergency Management

### ALERT SYSTEMS BY COUNTY

#### King County Alert System

King County supports a regional public alert system. Register your email address and/or cellphone number to receive text-only messages at [RPIN.org](http://RPIN.org). Many King County cities have their own public alert systems; contact your local Office of Emergency Management (a list of offices in King County can be found at [kingcounty.gov/prepare](http://kingcounty.gov/prepare)).

#### Kitsap Electronic Notification System

Go to Kitsap County's homepage at [kitsapgov.com](http://kitsapgov.com) and click the sign-up icon on the top of the right sidebar.

#### Pierce County ALERT

In Pierce County, register up to 10 different devices (cell, text, email, etc.) on Pierce County's ALERT system. To sign up, call 253-798-6595 or go to [piercecountywa.org/ALERT](http://piercecountywa.org/ALERT).

#### Snohomish County

Snohomish County uses an Internet-based communications tool called MyStateUSA. If you have a residential or business address in Snohomish County, you are automatically part of the secure database. To access the MyStateUSA system, go to [mystateusa.com](http://mystateusa.com) and look for the "Sign Up for Weather Alerts" button in the upper right corner of the webpage.



Safety is our top priority at Puget Sound Energy. We care about the safety of our customers, our employees and the communities we serve.

Winter weather can make for dicey situations around the Pacific Northwest, which is why it's important to be prepared before emergencies happen and to stay safe during them.

#### PSE prepares for storms

PSE employees and crews routinely make upgrades and improvements to our energy system in preparation for storm season. When a storm hits, we do our best to keep the lights on and restore power quickly if the lights go out.

This year, PSE crews completed the following work to prepare for potential storms:

- Invested \$14 million to clear trees located near 3,058 miles of power lines in nine counties. Pruning and removing trees that pose a risk of falling into power lines helps reduce the likelihood of tree- and limb-related outages.
- Replaced more than 40 miles of overhead wire with specially coated tree wire throughout our service territory. The tree wire's special coating protects customers from losing power if a tree branch falls into the power line.
- Approximately 40 power line crews — each crew includes at least two people — are positioned and ready to respond to outages throughout our nine-county electric service territory. When rough weather hits, we can quickly call in more. In the January 2012 winter storm, some 300 crews were hard at work restoring power.
- Approximately 80 PSE service linemen are ready to assess damage to the electric system and identify needed crews to make significant repairs.
- More than 35 tree crews work throughout the year to clear trees away from downed power lines.
- Additional staff is hired during the winter to assist with increased customer calls.



#### DOWNLOAD

Windstorm Preparedness Checklist at [TakeWinterByStorm.org](http://TakeWinterByStorm.org)

- Weather is regularly tracked and crews are strategically placed so they can be dispatched quickly to restore power in affected areas.

#### PSE responds quickly and safely

Storm conditions often make restoration challenging. Fallen trees, snow and ice can make it difficult for crews to reach affected areas to make repairs to the damaged infrastructure. Crews are mobilized where damage may be most severe and focus on restoring power as quickly and safely as possible.

- When a storm hits, we quickly assess the damage and send crews out to make repairs and restore power.
- Customer service representatives provide a vital link between our customers and our crews in the field.
- We provide regular outage updates and restoration status information during major events via Facebook ([facebook.com/pugetsoundenergy](http://facebook.com/pugetsoundenergy)) and Twitter (@PSETalk). PSE is also on Flickr at [flickr.com/photos/puget-soundenergy](http://flickr.com/photos/puget-soundenergy).

#### If there is an outage

- It's important for customers to report their outages by calling our customer service representatives at 888-225-5773 or by logging into their accounts at [PSE.com](http://PSE.com).
- Turn off lights and appliances and unplug sensitive electronic equipment such as computers to avoid harming electronics if a power surge occurs.
- Leave one light switch on so you'll know when your power returns.
- Use flashlights instead of candles. Also, keep extra batteries on hand.
- Keep your freezer and refrigerator doors closed and open them only

when it is necessary. In a prolonged outage, put bags of ice in the refrigerator/freezer to keep food from spoiling.

- Never use a gas range, indoor cooker, or charcoal or gas barbecue for indoor heating.
- Close curtains and drapes to keep the heat in.
- Wear warm clothes in layers.
- If the indoor temperature drops to 55 degrees or below, open your faucets so there is a constant drip to prevent pipes from freezing.
- If using a generator, follow the manufacturer's instructions. Never operate a generator or other outdoor heating device indoors.
- The following natural gas appliances will continue to operate if there is an outage: natural gas water heaters; gas log fireplaces; gas ovens and ranges (if there is electric ignition, have matches nearby to light the flame); and natural gas barbecues (never bring a portable grill indoors).

#### Downed power lines

- If you come across a downed power line, stay far away from it and call PSE at 888-225-5773.
- Always assume a downed power line is live. Never touch a downed power line or anything near it.
- Do not drive over downed power lines. Should a power line fall on your car when you're driving, call 911 if able and stay in the car until help arrives.
- If a person or pet comes in contact with a power line, stay clear and call 911 immediately. Do not touch the victim or the wire.
- Stay away from overhead power lines. Each year, people are seriously injured when they accidentally come into contact with power lines while trimming trees, clearing gutters and working on landscaping or other projects.

— Lindsey Walimaki,  
Puget Sound Energy

## Flooding: You can help manage impact

Flooding is the most common weather-related disaster in our region. Each year, we have minor flooding during heavy rainstorms.

Some years, however, we have severe flooding, from which it can take years to recover. King County alone has experienced 12 federally declared flood-related disasters since 1990.

At its mildest, flooding can result in a temporarily closed road that is nothing more than an inconvenience during your commute, or perhaps canceled classes or a missed day at work.

At its worst, flooding can result in significant property damage and costly repairs, serious and long-term economic impacts to you or your community, or worse — the loss of life. How you



### DOWNLOAD

Rains/Flooding Preparedness Checklist at [TakeWinterByStorm.org](http://TakeWinterByStorm.org)

prepare for flooding can have a tremendous impact on how resilient you are in the event of a flood.

### Prepare yourself. Insure your property.

Reducing flood risks is the best way to avoid or minimize damage and loss of property or life. That starts with personally preparing yourself, your family and your property. Have an emergency plan that identifies where you would meet if you can't get home, and make sure you have an



NED AHRENS / KING COUNTY

This photo shows flooding in the Snoqualmie Valley.

out-of-state contact to help with communication if local phone lines are unavailable.

Most homeowners'

insurance policies do not cover flood damages, and a separate policy is needed — many of which take 30 days or longer to take effect. So check your policy, especially if you live in or own a business in a floodplain. To get a flood risk profile of your property, go to [floodsmart.gov](http://floodsmart.gov).

If you live in an area prone to flooding, be prepared to use sandbags should heavy rains hit. Know where to

get them, how to use them and how to dispose of them once they've been used. While many materials can be purchased in advance from retailers, emergency supplies are often unavailable during a flood event. Check [kingcounty.gov/floodservices](http://kingcounty.gov/floodservices).

### Turn around. Don't drown.

The leading cause of flood-related deaths is from motorists driving through standing or moving water.

### Information

The King County Flood Control District provides funding and policy oversight for flood protection projects and programs in King County. The board is composed of the members of the King County Council. Information is available at [kingcountyfloodcontrol.org](http://kingcountyfloodcontrol.org)

Water can rise quickly and strand motorists. Standing water can conceal downed power lines, washed-out roads and other serious hazards. Floodwaters can also be contaminated with human sewage, animal waste, chemicals and other health hazards. So avoid walking through floodwater, too.

### Information is power.

Real-time flood conditions and free, automated flood alerts are available for all major King County rivers: the Snoqualmie, Tolt, Skykomish, Raging, Cedar, Green and White rivers, as well as Issaquah Creek. Sign up today at [kingcounty.gov/flood](http://kingcounty.gov/flood).

— Julia Patterson, Chair, King County Flood Control District

GOODWILL INDUSTRIES  
3 x 5

## Help keep storm drains clear

Ever wonder how you can prevent street flooding? Or prevent pollution and protect our fish and wildlife? The answer is right below your feet, in the form of a storm drain, ditch or culvert.

Every fall, the various drainage systems in our region are at risk of getting clogged by fallen leaves and debris. When clear, these systems keep the water flowing off of the street and away from our roadways. But when clogged, these systems can struggle to prevent the water from ponding on the surface

of our streets. This can cause flooding and pollute our local waterways.

In Seattle alone, there are nearly 80,000 drains. Carlton Stinson, project manager of Seattle Public Utilities' Fall Clean program, says residents chipping in to help can make all the difference.

Begin by determining what kind of drainage system is in your area and — paying attention to safety at all times — make sure it's clear of leaves and debris. If a storm drain is blocked, use a rake or broom to draw the leaves

off the grate and out of the street. Remember, your personal safety comes first, so always rake debris away from the street.

If your local drainage system is a ditch or culvert, be careful to assess the situation. Remember, only attempt to clear debris if it is safe to do so.

When you're done, compost the leaves. Piling them in your yard can relog the drain and undo all of your hard work!

— Andy Ryan, Seattle Public Utilities



## How to prevent pipes from freezing, bursting

As Washington prepares to hunker down for another winter, it's important to remember that dangerously cold temperatures pose hazards to property owners and drivers.

When the outside temperature drops below 20 degrees Fahrenheit (minus 6 degrees Celsius), water pipes in homes with little or no insulation are likely to freeze and break, creating an in-home flood and destroying floors, soaking furniture and ruining personal items.

Cleaning up after a pipe burst is time-consuming and smelly work, made even more difficult by the frigid temperatures.

Homes in warmer climates are usually at greater risk because pipes often run through uninsulated or un-



Water from a burst pipe flooded this home and garage, then refroze.

STATE FARM

derinsulated attics or crawl spaces.

Pipes can freeze anywhere due to exposure from cracks or holes in siding or because of pipes being placed in outside walls with inadequate insulation.

A one-eighth-inch (3-milimeter) crack in a pipe can

spray more than 250 gallons of water a day — ruining floors, carpets, furniture and irreplaceable personal belongings.

It's not too late to prevent property damage. Take these precautions:

**Insulate pipes in your home's crawl space or**

**attic.** The more insulation you use, the better protected your pipes will be. An insulating pipe sleeve, heat tape or thermostatically controlled heat cables are probably your best bets. Be sure to use products approved by an independent testing organization, such as



### DOWNLOAD

Snow Preparedness and House Maintenance checklists at [TakeWinterByStorm.org](http://TakeWinterByStorm.org)

Underwriters Laboratories Inc., and only for the use intended (exterior or interior) by the manufacturer.

**Seal leaks that allow cold air inside.** Look for air leaks around electrical wiring, dryer vents and pipes. Use caulk or insulation to keep the cold out and the heat in. In severe wind chill, a tiny opening can let in enough cold air to cause a pipe to freeze.

**Disconnect garden hoses** and, if practical, use an indoor valve to shut off

and drain water from pipes leading to outside faucets. This reduces the chance the short span of pipe just inside the house will freeze.

When it's especially cold, let the hot and cold faucets drip overnight and open cabinet doors to allow heat to get to uninsulated pipes under sinks on exterior walls.

If you are going away for an extended period of time, be sure to maintain adequate heat inside your home. Set the thermostat no lower than 55 degrees Fahrenheit. Also, shut off and drain the water system. Be aware, however, that if you have a fire-protection sprinkler system in your house, it may be deactivated when the water is shut off.

— Ty Cordova, State Farm Public Affairs

## Space heater, smoke alarm tips

Space heaters maintain warmth in millions of U.S. homes, while reducing utility costs. But misuse of these alternative heat sources could prove hazardous for your family.

According to data from the National Fire Protection Association, heating devices account for at least one in six home fires. Space heating poses a much higher risk of fire, death, injury and loss than central heating.

State Farm recommends the following ways to reduce risks and use space heaters safely:

- The model should be tested and approved by an independent testing lab.
- All heating elements should have a safety guard.
- The unit should include an automatic safety switch that will turn off the ap-

### Resources

**State Farm:** [statefarm.com/learning](http://statefarm.com/learning)  
**Insurance Institute for Business & Home Safety:** [disastersafety.org](http://disastersafety.org)  
**National Fire Protection Association:** [nfpa.org](http://nfpa.org)  
**Recall notices:** Check [cpsc.gov](http://cpsc.gov)

pliance if it is accidentally tipped over.

• Never use gasoline in a kerosene unit. Use only what the manufacturer recommends.

• Kerosene heaters should only be used in a well-ventilated area, away from flames or other heat sources.

• Turn off all space heaters when leaving the room.

If a fire does start, a properly installed, functioning smoke alarm could alert you to a potential disaster.

To get the most out of your smoke alarms, here are some things to keep in mind:

- If your house is involved in a fire, replace the smoke alarms. Smoke in that fire could have rendered its sensors useless.
- Most smoke alarms should be replaced every eight to 10 years.
- Install them no less than 4 inches or more than 12 inches from where the ceiling meets the wall.
- Do not install smoke alarms near kitchens or fireplaces or any place where smoke could trigger false alarms, as people tend to deactivate them.
- Do not test smoke alarms by using smoke. Press the test button, and it should beep or ring loudly.

— Ty Cordova, State Farm Public Affairs

## EASTSIDE TREE WORKS

### 3 x 5

BARTELL DRUG STORES  
6 x 10.5