

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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COLUMBUS DIVISION OF FIRE OFFERS WINTER SAFETY TIPS

[COLUMBUS-OH] With extreme weather expected to continue, the Columbus Division of Fire offers the following Winter Safety Tips to help residents stay safe this winter season.

- Cold weather puts an extra strain on the heart. Take it easy if planning to work outdoors. Dress warmly, in layers and work slowly.
- Use fireplaces, wood stoves and other combustion heaters only if they have proper outside ventilation. Make sure space heaters are at least 3-feet-away from any combustibles, such as bedding and furniture.
- In the event of a power outage, use battery-powered flashlights or lanterns. Do not leave candles unattended.
- The kitchen oven is not designed to heat your home. In addition to being a fire hazard, it can be a source of toxic fumes.
- Check on elderly relatives and neighbors to make sure they have enough food, heat and supplies to wait out the storm.
- Prevent pipes from freezing or rupturing by leaving all taps slightly open so they drip continuously.
- Avoid travel, if possible and inform someone of your destination and expect arrival time. Dress warmly and stock your vehicle with a winter weather survival kit that includes water, matches, a flashlight, chains and emergency flares. Carry extra warm winter gear such as a sleeping bag and blankets in case your car breaks down and you lose heat.

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