

THE CERT PULSE



January 2, 2012

UPCOMING EVENTS & MEETINGS

Please mark your calendars for these dates.

TUESDAY January 10th CERT meeting 1900 at the Hamden Government Center on Dixwell Avenue. Third floor.

Wednesday February 15 CERT meeting 1900 at the Hamden Government Center on Dixwell Avenue. Third floor.

Monday/Tuesday March 5th & 6th 2012 Citizen Corps Statewide Conference: The Statewide conference will be held at the Waters Edge Spa and Resort, Westbrook, Connecticut.

Thursday March 15 CERT meeting 1900 at the Hamden Government Center on Dixwell Avenue. Town Attorney Room, First floor/Basement.

Tuesday April 10th CERT meeting 1900 at the Hamden Government Center on Dixwell Avenue. Third floor.

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Special points of interest:

- Upcoming Meetings & Events
- Winter Storms
- Winter Storm Risk
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- Winter Storm Preparedness



WINTER STORMS

INTRODUCTION : A winter storm can range from a moderate snow over a few hours to blizzard conditions with blinding wind-driven snow that lasts for several days. Many winter storms are accompanied by low temperatures and heavy or blowing snow, which can severely reduce visibility.

Some winter storms may be large enough to affect several states, while others may affect only a single community.

Winter storms are defined differently in various parts of the country. You should check with your local emergency management office, the National Weather Service (NWS) office, or local chapter of the American Red Cross for terms and definitions specific to your area.





WINTER STORM RISK

Winter storms are considered deceptive killers because most deaths are indirectly related to the storm.

Risks to human life caused by winter storms.

- **Automobile or other transportation accidents:** This is the leading cause of death during winter storms.
- **Exhaustion and heart attacks:** Caused by overexertion, these are the two most likely causes of winter storm-related deaths.
- **Hypothermia and frostbite:** Elderly people account for the largest percentage of hypothermia victims. Many older Americans literally freeze to death in their own homes after being exposed to dangerously cold indoor temperatures.
- **House fires:** These occur more frequently in the winter because of the lack of proper safety precautions when using alternate heating sources (unattended fires, disposal of ashes too soon, improperly placed space heaters, etc.). Fire during winter storms presents a great danger because water supplies may freeze, and it may be difficult for firefighting equipment to get to the fire.
- **Asphyxiation:** In an effort to get warm, people asphyxiate because of improper use of fuels such as charcoal briquettes, which produce carbon monoxide.

**An SUV lays on its side after a rollover in sleeting conditions in Hartford, Conn.
Wednesday, Feb. 2, 2011**



The old Sena Lanes building on North Main St. in Waterbury, CT is seen after it collapsed under the weight of snow and ice, Feb. 2, 2011.



TYPES OF SNOW

Different kinds of snowfall:

Blizzards are accompanied by winds of 35 mph or more with snow and blowing snow, reducing visibility to less than one-quarter mile for at least 3 hours.

Blowing snow is wind-driven snow that reduces visibility. Blowing snow may be falling snow and/or snow on the ground that is picked up by the wind.

Snow squalls are brief, intense snow showers accompanied by strong, gusty winds. Accumulation may be significant.

Snow showers are a short duration of moderate snowfall. Some accumulation is possible.

TYPES OF ICE

Heavy accumulations of ice can disrupt communications and power for days while utility companies repair extensive damage. Even small accumulations of ice can be extremely dangerous to motorists and pedestrians. Bridges and overpasses are particularly dangerous because they freeze before other surfaces.

Different kinds of ice:

Sleet: Raindrops that freeze into ice pellets before reaching the ground are called sleet. Sleet usually bounces when hitting a surface and does not stick to objects. Sleet, however, can accumulate like snow and cause a hazard to motorists.

Freezing rain: Rain that falls onto surfaces with temperatures below freezing—causing it to freeze to those surfaces is called freezing rain. Even small accumulations of ice can cause a significant hazard.

Ice storm: Ice storms occur when freezing rain falls and freezes immediately on impact. Communications and power can be disrupted for days.



Hamden CERT



*~May you always have LOVE to share,
HEALTH to spare and FRIENDS that
care...*

WINTER STORM PREPAREDNESS

Key steps in winter storm preparedness:

Understand the risk. Take time to learn about the winter storm risk in your area. Realize the seriousness of such storms; they may leave you on your own for a long period of time.

Prepare your home with insulation, caulking, and weatherstripping. Learn how to keep pipes from freezing and how to thaw frozen pipes. Store sufficient fuel (or emergency heating equipment). Install and test smoke alarms on all levels of your home. Contact your local utility company about conducting an energy audit. Most will perform a basic audit free of charge.

Service snow removal equipment before the winter storm season. Maintain the equipment in good working order, and ensure that you have an adequate supply of gas. Clearing snow can be dangerous; use caution!

Keep your car's gas tank full for emergency use and to keep the fuel line from freezing.

Pay attention to warnings. Use a NOAA Weather Radio with a tone-alert feature or listen to local radio or television for Emergency Alert System (EAS) broadcasts.

During a winter storm:

Stay indoors and dress warmly. Wear layers of loose-fitting, lightweight, warm clothing. When necessary, remove layers to avoid perspiration and subsequent chill.

Eat and drink regularly. Food provides the body with energy for producing its own heat. Drink liquids such as warm broth or juices to prevent dehydration. **Avoid caffeine and alcohol.** Caffeine, a stimulant, accelerates the symptoms of hypothermia. Alcohol is a depressant and hastens the effects of cold on the body. Alcohol also slows circulation and can make you less aware of the effects of cold. Both caffeine and alcohol can cause dehydration.

Conserve fuel. Great demand may be placed on electric, gas, and other fuel distribution systems (fuel oil, propane, etc.). Suppliers may not be able to replenish depleted supplies during severe weather. Lower the thermostat to 65 degrees Fahrenheit during the day and 55 degrees at night. Close off unused rooms, stuff towels or rags in cracks under doors, and cover windows at night.

If outside, protect yourself from hazards. Dress warmly, keep dry, and watch for signs of hypothermia and frostbite. Avoid overexertion. Walk carefully on snowy, icy sidewalks, and use public transportation, if possible.

Happy New Year!