

## WHEELING EXTREME COLD WEATHER INFORMATION

### PERSONAL PREPAREDNESS:

When extreme cold weather (10 degrees F or lower) is forecast, residents are strongly encouraged to take preparations to minimize risks to both themselves and their homes. This includes emergency supplies for your home and your vehicle:

- Winter Emergency Supply Kit – Home:
  - Blankets
  - Battery-powered lantern(s)
  - Flashlight(s)
  - Extra batteries
  - Matches and/or lighters
  - Long-burning candles with weighed base/holder
  - Self-illuminating glow sticks (8 hour rated or more)
  - Battery-powered radio
  - Battery-powered clock
  - Snow shovel
  - Rock salt
  - Extra set of dry clothing
  - Basic first aid kit
  - Fire extinguisher
  - Non-electric can opener
  - Non-perishable food that requires no cooking
    - Tuna fish
    - Canned meats/vegetables
    - Breakfast bars
    - Toaster pastries
    - Bread
    - Exercise power bars
  - Special need items
    - Diapers
    - Baby formula
    - Hearing aid batteries
    - Prescription medications
  
- Winter Emergency Supply Kit – Vehicle:
  - Blankets
  - Basic first aid kit
  - Fire extinguisher
  - Metal can (ex. coffee can)
  - Flashlight
  - Extra batteries
  - Matches and/or lighter
  - Self-illuminating glow sticks (8 hour rated or more)
  - Snow brush
  - Ice scraper
  - Collapsible or small scoop shovel
  - Tire sealant
  - Booster cables (with visual directions on how to use)
  - Non-perishable food that requires no cooking
    - Breakfast bars
    - Toaster pastries
    - Exercise power bars
  - Piece of brightly colored cloth



## **DURING PERIODS OF EXTREME COLD WEATHER:**

- You should remain indoors and only go outside and/or drive if it is absolutely necessary.
- Monitor TV, radio stations, Cable Channel 17 (Comcast), School District 21's web page, School District 23's web page, High School District 214's web page, and the Village of Wheeling's web page for updated important information about the weather, school closings, and general safety information.

- School District 21: <http://www.d21.k12.il.us/>



- School District 23: <http://www.d23.org/>



- High School District 214: <http://www.d214.org/>



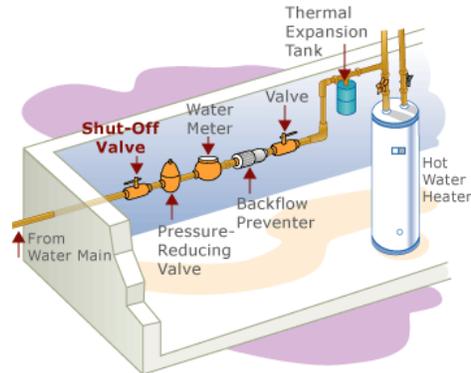
- National Weather Service (Wheeling Area Information):  
<http://forecast.weather.gov/MapClick.php?CityName=Wheeling&state=IL&site=LOT&textField1=42.1305&textField2=-87.9236>



- Raise the temperature within your home several degrees. If electric power is lost, you will have added additional time before it will become uninhabitable in your home due to cold.
- Close all curtains, blinds, and drapery to assist with keeping warmth inside your home.
- Place a dry, rolled towel along the bottom edge of all outside entry doors to minimize cold air drafts.
- If you have water pipes within an outside wall of your home:
  - Keep cabinet doors underneath your sink(s) open to allow warm air to circulate around the pipes.
  - Slightly keep open your faucet and allow some water to continually run.



- If your pipes freeze, have a licensed plumber thaw them. In some cases, using an electric hair dryer to blow on the frozen pipe will thaw it. Do not use a flame producing torch to thaw pipes.
- If your water pipes freeze and rupture, shut-off the water supply at the water meter:



- Eat and drink regularly. This will maintain a steady body temperature. Avoid caffeine and alcoholic beverages since they can cause dehydration, mask the effects of the cold temperatures, and have been shown to actually cause you to lose body heat more rapidly.
- Maintain a minimum of 30 inches around any portable space heaters. Do not use kerosene heaters, gas stoves, or barbecue grills indoors for secondary heating since they can create lethal levels of Carbon Monoxide (CO) in your home, in addition to being a fire hazard.
- If you must go outside:
  - Avoid overexertion. Sweating will make your clothing damp and make it lose its insulating value. Shoveling of snow/ice can place an extreme strain on individuals with heart conditions, high blood pressure, and other serious medical conditions. It is important to pace yourself and take frequent breaks inside a heated building or vehicle.
  - Wear a hat, gloves, coat, warm socks, and water-proof/water-resistant shoes/boots to help maintain your body temperature.
  - Cover your mouth and avoid talking, if possible. This avoids drawing cold air into your lungs. Individuals talking on a cellular telephone tend to remove the glove on the hand used to hold the device and increase the risk of frostbite on that hand.
  - Monitor yourself and those around you for signs of frostbite and/or hypothermia (critical loss of body heat). Symptoms are: loss of feeling, white/pale appearance in extremities (ex. fingers, toes, and nose), uncontrollable shivering, memory loss, mental confusion, disorientation, incoherence, slurred speech, drowsiness, exhaustion, and/or trembling hands. If these symptoms are observed, the individual should immediately go inside to a heated structure or vehicle. If possible, the individual's temperature should be taken. If their temperature is below 95 degrees F, call 9-1-1 for immediate emergency medical assistance. Individuals over 65 years of age, individuals with heart and/or blood pressure issues, and children under 5 years of age are more susceptible to hypothermia.
  - Do not "pre-warm" your vehicle inside of your garage. Lethal levels of Carbon Monoxide (CO) can build up inside the garage and if your garage is attached to your home, the Carbon Monoxide (CO) can seep into your home, as well. In addition, should your vehicle experience a mechanical problem, it can catch on fire and destroy not only your vehicle, but also your garage and home.



- If your vehicle breaks down on the roadway, try to pull off to the side of the road. Turn on your vehicle's hazard flashers and hang a piece of brightly colored cloth outside of the driver's side window. Only exit your vehicle to walk for help if a heated structure is nearby (i.e. visible).

### **DURING AN ELECTRICAL POWER OUTAGE:**

- Do *not* open your outside entry doors unless absolutely necessary. Place a dry, rolled towel along the bottom edge of all outside entry doors to minimize cold air drafts.
- Do not call 9-1-1 to inquire about your power outage. 9-1-1- should only be used for actual emergency situations. The Village of Wheeling cannot expedite or give you a definite time as to when your power will be restored. Most electrical power outages are restored within 12 hours.

If you have questions about your power outage, you should call:

- Commonwealth Edison Company: (800) 344-7661

<https://www.comed.com/Outages/ReportanOutage/Pages/default.aspx#>  
(Power Outage Information)



- Monitor the radio for additional information, including the location of possible emergency warming centers.
- Add additional layers of clothing. Move to the highest elevation within your home and bundle underneath blankets.
- If your home becomes too cold, relocate to a friend's or family member's home who has electrical power and/or heat. Before leaving, slightly keep open your facet(s) and allow some water to continually run (if not already done prior to losing electrical power).
- Emergency warming shelters will be opened by the Village of Wheeling on a case by case basis, depending upon the number of affected residents and the projected time until electrical power will be restored by Commonwealth Edison. In most cases, emergency warming shelters will *not* be opened unless the electrical power restoration time is in excess of 24 hours and the number of affected residents is limited to a small portion of a subdivision.

If emergency warming shelters are opened, various notification methods will be used to advise you as to what shelter location is available to you. Shelter locations typically include:

- Wheeling Park District Recreation Center, 100 Community Blvd.
- Wheeling High School, 900 S. Elmhurst Road
- Mark Twain School, 515 E. Merle
- Eugene Field School, 51 St. Armand
- Walt Whitman School, 133 Wille Avenue
- Booth Tarkington School, 310 Scott
- Jack London Middle School, 1001 W. Dundee Road



- Oliver Holmes Middle School, 221 S. Wolf Road
- Village Hall Council Chambers, 2 Community Blvd.

**NON-EMERGENCY TELEPHONE NUMBERS:**

- Village of Wheeling (Village Hall): (847) 459-2600 (Monday – Friday)
- Wheeling Fire Department: (847) 459-2662 (24 hours)
- Wheeling Police Department: (847) 459-2632 (24 hours)
- Wheeling Public Work Department: (847) 279-6900
- Wheeling Park District: (847) 465-3333
- Wheeling Township: (847) 259-7730
- School District 21: (847) 537-8270
- School District 23: (847) 870-3850
- Wheeling High School: (847) 718-7000
- Comcast/Xfinity (Cable TV): (800-934-6489 (24 hours)
- Commonwealth Edison Company (Electric Power): (800) 344-7661 (24 hours)
- Nicor (Natural Gas): (888) 642-6748 (24 hours)

**VILLAGE OF WHEELING WEB PAGE:**

- [www.wheelingil.gov](http://www.wheelingil.gov)

