

Jackson County Individual and Family Contingency Planner

Electrical power and telephone dial tone can be lost at any time when storms and floods occur. There are already numerous brochures, which give general guidance regarding how to prepare for these problems. It is obvious that individuals and families should always be prepared. We never know when a disaster may occur.

The following pages are a planning guide for individuals and families. It includes more detail than most brochures. The ideas are gathered from numerous sources willing to share their wisdom. Further guidance is available from these listed sources and is also available from your County Emergency Management office.

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Staying Warm in an Unheated House

Coping with a Power Outage in Winter

During severe winter storms, your home heating system could be inoperative for as long as several days. To minimize discomfort and possible health problems during this time, conserve body heat by dressing warmly; find or improvise an alternative heat source, such as a fireplace or electric space heater; confine heating to single room; and keep safety a foremost consideration. While chances of freezing to death in your home are small, there's a greater danger of death by fire, lack of oxygen or carbon monoxide poisoning.

Think Safety First

Safety is of extreme importance in a heating emergency. Follow these precautions:

- ◆ Do not burn anything larger than candles inside your home without providing adequate ventilation to the outside.
- ◆ Any type of heater should be vented. Connect the stovepipe to a chimney flue, or hook up your stove to the flue entrance of the non-functioning furnace pipe. If you use a catalytic or unvented heater, cross-ventilate by opening a window an inch on each side of the room. It is better to let in some cold air than to run the risk of carbon monoxide poisoning.
- ◆ Do not use a gas or electric oven or surface unit for heating. A gas oven may go out or burn inefficiently, leading to carbon monoxide poisoning; electric ovens are not designed for space heating. Do not burn outdoor barbecue materials such as charcoal briquettes inside – even in a fireplace.
- ◆ Keep firefighting materials on hand. These may include: dry powder fire extinguishers, a tarp or heavy blanket, sand, salt, baking soda and water.

Conserve Body Heat

Put on extra clothing. If cold is severe, your bed may be the warmest place. Use extra blankets and coverings to trap body heat; this is an especially good way to keep children warm. Farm families might consider taking refuge in the relative warmth of the livestock barn.

Find or Improvise an Alternative Heat Source

You may have alternative heating resources around your home. Possibilities include items like a fireplace, space heater, catalytic camp stove, or wood/gas/oil heater.

Select a Room to be Heated

To increase efficiency of available heat, close off all rooms except the one to be heated. Try to select a room on the “warm” side of the house, away from prevailing winds. Avoid rooms with large windows or uninsulated walls. Interior bathrooms probably have the lowest air leakage and heat loss. Your basement may be a warm place in cold weather because the earth acts as insulation and minimizes heat loss. Isolate the room from the rest of the house by keeping doors closed, hanging bedding or heavy drapes over entryways. Confine emergency heat to a small area, if using a vented stove or space heater that the selected room has a stove or chimney flue for ventilation.

Protecting Plumbing During a Winter Storm

Care of Utilities and Appliances When the Power is Out

If the heat will be off in your home for several days during a winter storm, you should protect exposed plumbing, sewage systems and appliances from freezing and subsequent damage. Frozen pipes could become a problem once the temperature inside the home falls below 40 degrees F.

If some pipes have frozen, despite the fact that power has returned or exists, there are some simple measures to take. But whenever possible, get an expert for plumbing work or repairs.

Reduce the Chance of Frozen Pipes

Follow these steps to reduce the chance of pipes freezing during a power failure:

- ◆ Shut off the water at the main valve, or turn off the well pump if it is in the house.
- ◆ Turn the water heater off. An explosion could result if the heater is left on without water in the system. You will find either an electrical switch or gas valve for shutting off the appliance.
- ◆ Open all the faucets on the lower level, then the upper level. You may want to collect the water for household use.
- ◆ Insulate undrainable pipes around their main valves. Use newspaper, blankets or housing insulation.

Modern housing is not usually designed for easy winterization, for this reason, you should contact a plumber or other expert if the house will be without heat for an extended period of time. Critical measures include: draining of toilets, water softening units, drain traps, sump pumps, heaters, humidifiers, dishwashers and other appliances that use water.

When Pipes Freeze

Under normal circumstances, most of us never have to worry about a frozen water pipe. Most pipes are on interior walls and are insulated well enough that water does not freeze. But frozen pipes may become a concern if the heat is off or if water pipes run through unheated crawl spaces, floors over garages or in outside walls. If pipes do freeze:

- ◆ Shut off the water supply and open faucets to the frozen pipes;
- ◆ Warm them with a heat lamp, blow dryer or portable heater; do not use boiling water or open flame/propane torches;
- ◆ Open sink cabinets to let in warm air, applying only moderate heat over several hours.

If pipes have burst you could take preventative action, immediately turn off their water supply. Try to locate the areas that need repair and call a plumber.

Winter Power Failure on the Farm

Keeping Animals and Equipment Safe

A winter power failure or fuel shortage can cause problems on farms, but being prepared can keep problems to a minimum. Ideally you should have a standby electric generator for emergency power. Assuming you have no power, take the following precautions to keep animals and equipment safe.

Poultry and Livestock

To protect poultry and livestock during a power failure:

- ◆ Ventilate buildings. Do not close buildings tight to conserve heat, since animals could suffocate from lack of oxygen. Clear ice and snow from all vents because oxygen will eventually be used up in mechanically ventilated production facilities. Then open vents to facilitate natural airflow.
- ◆ Provide water. All animals, especially cattle, need plenty of water during cold weather. It may be possible to drive your water pump with a small gasoline engine and a belt. Otherwise, you will need to haul water.
- ◆ Provide heat. Use camp stoves and heaters as emergency heat sources for brooders. Plan ahead to have this equipment ready when needed.
- ◆ Provide feed. Animals need extra energy for body heat during severe or prolonged cold weather, especially if they are outside without shelter. Mechanical feeders will be inoperable during a power failure. Provide for emergency feeding procedures.

Equipment

- ◆ Unplug or turn off all electric equipment to prevent damage when power is restored.

If you use portable space heaters for supplemental heat, close off the fuel valve as soon as possible after power is interrupted. On models not equipped with safety shut-off, and especially on some models with gravity feed fuel systems, fuel continues to flow even when the burner is inoperative. An explosion or fire could result when power is restored.

Storing Milk

Request that the dairy pick up milk as soon as possible. Consider adding a standby power generator to handle vital electric equipment.

Even if you are short of extra milk storage facilities, do not store milk in stock tanks or other containers. Dairy plants may not accept milk that has been stored in anything other than regular milk storage containers. Check with your local dairy about policy regarding emergency storage.

If you are unable to cool your milk or have it picked up, check your tank for souring each time you add milk to it. This check could mean the difference between losing all or only part of your milk supply.

Electric Generators

A Source of Emergency Power

Standby generators are either engine driven or tractor driven. Gasoline, LP gas (bottled gas) and diesel-fueled engines are available. Generators must provide the same type of power at the same voltage and frequency as that supplied by power lines. This is usually 120/140 volt, single phase, 60 cycle alternating current (AC).

Size of Generators

A full-load system will handle the entire farmstead load. Automatic engine-powered, full-load systems will begin to furnish power immediately, or up to 30 seconds after power is off. Smaller part-load systems may be enough to handle essential equipment during an emergency.

Power-take-off (PTO) generators are about half as costly as engine-operated units. Under a part-load system, only the most essential equipment is operated at one time. For most farms, this type of system is adequate, provided the generator is sized to start the largest motor. For example, the milk cooler or ventilation fan would need to be operating continuously, but the operation of the silo unloader and mechanical feeding system could be postponed until the milking chores are completed. PTO units can be mounted on a trailer.

The chart (see page 6) shows the power requirements of typical household appliances and workshop power tools in watts, the standard measure of electrical power. A key heading here is "Start-Up Watts" – the momentary peak load demanded for short periods of time when any appliance with an electric motor first starts. "Running Watts" indicates normal operating levels, though a power tool under load will consume more. When you're tallying your power requirements, use start-up watt figures where they exist. For equipment that's not on the chart, and has no stated wattage requirements, look for an amperage rating on the nameplate. You can calculate wattage by multiplying amperage draw by rated voltage. (Example: 15 amps x 120 volts = 1,800 watts.) As a rule of thumb, triple this number to determine start-up watts if the item has a motor.

Installation

Wiring and equipment must be installed in accordance with the Nation Electrical Code, local ordinances and the requirements of your power supplier. It is essential that you have the proper equipment for disconnecting the generator from public utility lines. Most companies require the installation of a double-pole double-throw transfer switch or its equivalent for this purpose.

- ◆ Be sure to check with an electrician to be sure local codes are followed and that the generator is safe. Excess heat and combustion fumes are safety concerns.
- ◆ Check the voltmeter frequently. If voltage falls below 200 volts for 240-volt service or below 100 volts for 120-volt service, reduce the load on the generator by turning off some electrical equipment. Follow maintenance instructions in manufacturer's manual.

Power Hungry Appliances

Below is typical start-up and running wattage requirements for common household appliances and workshop power tools. Check your equipment specifications to determine exact needs.

Appliance	Start-up Watts	Running Watts
VCR	-	50
Radio	-	100
Oil Burner	3,100	235
TV/Computer	-	350
Furnace Blower	1,400	700
Microwave	-	750
Sump Pump	1,400	750
Washing Machine	2,000	750
Well Pump	2,000	750
Refrigerator	2,500	800
Coffee Maker	-	850
2-Slice Toaster	-	1,100
Space Heater	-	1,300
Water Heater	-	3,000

Tool	Start-up Watts	Running Watts
3/8" Drill	1,000	350
Palm Sander	1,000	360
Paint Sprayer	750	600
Circular Saw	1,500	750
Jigsaw	2,000	800
1 hp Angle Grinder	2,400	800
½" Hammer Drill	3,000	1,000
Reciprocating Saw	3,500	1,200
2 hp Router	3,900	1,300
Belt Sander	3,900	1,300
Contractor's Saw	4,500	1,500
Mitre Saw	4,500	1,500

Single tool or small appliance: 1.5 kW (1500 watts) generator
Average house minimum to run basic needs: 5 kW (5000 watts) generator
Farm to milk, cool milk and feed basic: 25 kW (25000 watts) generator

Animal Safety in Winter

Providing Adequate Shelter, Feed and Water

Severe cold alone usually will not affect the performance of large animals on full feed. Wind, however, can be a serious stress factor. A strong wind has about the same effect on animals as exposure to a sudden drop in temperature. A 20-mph wind is about equivalent to a 30 degree F. drop in temperature.

Move stock into sheltered areas during severe periods of cold. Adequate shelter is important because animals' extremities are subject to freezing during sub-zero weather. Extremities that become wet or are normally wet are particularly subject to frostbite and freezing.

- ◆ Shallow open-front sheds provide excellent shelters for livestock. These shelters should have slots along the eaves on the backside to provide ventilation and to prevent snow from swirling into the front of the shed.
- ◆ Solid-sided feed wagons work well as temporary wind protection. Attach plywood or locate bales of straw or feed at the bottom of the wagon to block wind from moving under the wagon.
- ◆ Windbreaks or timber-covered lowlands make good protection for range cattle. Unlike shed-type shelters, windbreaks eliminate concerns about overcrowding or proper ventilation.
- ◆ Never close shelters tightly, since stock could suffocate from lack of oxygen. Additional bedding is helpful to keep animals insulated and dry.

Provide Extra Feed

During severe or prolonged cold weather, animals need extra feed to provide body heat and to maintain production weight gains. Provide them with additional, higher fiber feeds such as hay or hay mixed with oat straw. A good formula during cold weather is to increase feed 1 percent for every degree drop in temperature below 32 degrees F. Usually, animals instinctively eat more feed if a storm is approaching.

Remember that mechanical feeders may be inoperable during power failures. Unless you have a source of emergency power, you may need extra labor to feed, water and care for animals by hand.

Provide Water

Dehydration is often a greater hazard during winter storms than cold or suffocation. Cattle cannot lick enough snow to satisfy their water requirements. They also need more water if they are eating a higher-fiber diet. Use heaters in water tanks to provide livestock with enough water, or only pump out as much water as needed twice a day, to avoid problems of freezing water. If pipes freeze or power is out, you may need to haul water to animals.

Watch Your Livestock

Watch your livestock carefully during winter storms and periods of severe cold. Keep them moving. If you see them shivering, not moving or acting abnormally, call your veterinarian.

Practical Checklists of Supplies

A. Water:

Store water in plastic containers such as (clean) soft drink bottles. Avoid using containers that will decompose or break, such as milk cartons or glass bottles. A normally active person needs to drink at least two quarts of water each day. Intense physical activity can double that amount. Children, nursing mothers and ill people will need more.

- ◆ Store one gallon of water per person per day (two quarts for drinking, two quarts for food preparation/sanitation).
- ◆ For disasters, the American Red Cross suggests keeping at least a three-day supply of water for each person in your household. For Y2K, many individuals are keeping a seven-day supply.

B. Decontamination:

When treated water is not available, you must disinfect water using one of the following methods.

Preferred –

Iodine Tablets

- ◆ Fill a one-quart container with the cleanest water available.
- ◆ Put one tablet in clear water, or two in cold or cloudy water.
- ◆ Double the tablets for double amounts of water.
- ◆ Place cover on container and wait 5 minutes then shake the container. Loosen the cover and tip the container over to allow leakage around the cover area. Tighten the cover and wait an additional 25 minutes before drinking.

Alternate methods

Chlorine Ampoules:

- ◆ Fill one-quart container with cleanest water available.
- ◆ Mix one ampoule of chlorine with one-half cup of water; stir the mixture with a clean device until contents are dissolved. Take care not to cut hands when breaking open the glass ampoule.
- ◆ Pour one-half ounce of the above solution into your one-quart container.
- ◆ Place a cover on the container and shake. Slightly loosen the cap and tip the container over to allow leakage around cover. Tighten the cover and wait 30 minutes before drinking.

Tincture of Iodine:

- ◆ Fill one-quart container with cleanest water available.
- ◆ Add 5 drops of 2 percent Tincture of Iodine per quart. If water is cold or cloudy, add 10 drops.
- ◆ Mix thoroughly by shaking container. Slightly loosen the cover and tip container over to allow leakage around cap. Tighten cover and wait 30 minutes before drinking.
- ◆ Very cloudy or cold water may require prolonged contact time. Let stand several hours or overnight if possible.

Household/common bleach

- ◆ Fill one-quart container with cleanest water possible.
- ◆ Read label on bleach bottle to determine amount of available chlorine. Liquid chlorine laundry bleach usually has 4 to 6 percent available chlorine.

Drops to be added to one quart:

<u>Available Chlorine</u>	<u>Clear Water</u>	<u>Cold or Cloudy Water</u>
1%	10	20
4-6%	2	4
7-10%	1	2

Place cap on container and shake. Slightly loosen the cap and tip container over to allow leakage around cover and threads. Tighten cap and wait 30 minutes before drinking. When chlorine or iodine is not available, boil water 5 to 10 minutes. In an emergency, even boiling water for 15 seconds will help. Boiled water must be protected from recontamination.

C. Food:

Store at least a three-day supply of non-perishable food (perhaps seven for Y2K). Select foods that require no refrigeration, preparation or cooking and little or no water. If you must heat food, have cans of sterno on hand - follow instructions on the can. Select food items that are compact and lightweight. Expensive trail food is unnecessary and often poor tasting.

- ◆ Ready-to-eat canned meats, fruits and vegetables. Don't forget a manual can opener.
- ◆ Canned juices, milk, soup (if powdered, store extra water).
- ◆ Staples - sugar, salt, pepper.
- ◆ High-energy foods - peanut butter, jelly crackers, granola bars, and trail mix.
- ◆ Vitamins.
- ◆ Foods for infants, elderly persons or persons on special diets.
- ◆ Comfort/stress foods - cookies, hard candy, sweetened cereals, lollipops, instant coffee, tea bags.

Refrigerator/Freezer:

Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection suggests that if energy is shut off, "Prevent food spoilage by keeping the freezer or refrigerator closed. Foods can stay cold and safe for two days in a fully packed and closed freezer and safe for one day in a half-full freezer."

Mike Barnett of the department's Division of Food Safety says don't open the freezer until power is restored. If food items have ice crystals throughout and feel cold to the touch, they can be refrozen. "But if in doubt, throw it out."

The same guidelines go for the refrigerator. "When the power comes back on, put a thermometer inside the fridge. If it reads higher than 40 degrees F, discard all perishable foods, such as: raw or cooked meat or seafood; milk and dairy products; cooked pasta and pasta salads; fresh eggs and egg substitutes; meat-topped pizza and lunch meats; casseroles and soups; mayonnaise and tartar sauce; and cream-filled pastries. Other items such as butter, ketchup, jelly, hard cheeses, and bread and rolls are usually safe if power is restored within two days.

If power is predicted to be off for a longer period; consider outside storage. Check temperatures carefully. Keep food away from animals' outdoors.

For answers to specific questions you are asked to call 1-800-535-4555 or Jackson County Health Department.

Hot Food Preparation: For boiling water and warming canned goods; consider the following:

- ◆ Sterno
- ◆ Fondue candles heating
- ◆ Gas grill or charcoal grill (outdoors)
- ◆ Woodfire

F. First Aid Kit:

This American Red Cross suggestion is a smart idea all the time. Assemble a first aid kit for your home and one for each car. A first aid kit should include:

- ◆ Sterile adhesive bandages in assorted sizes.
- ◆ 2-inch sterile gauze pads (4-6).
- ◆ 4-inch sterile gauze pads (4-6).
- ◆ Hypoallergenic adhesive tape.
- ◆ Triangular bandages (3).
- ◆ 2-inch sterile roller bandages (3 rolls).
- ◆ 3-inch sterile roller bandages (3 rolls).
- ◆ Scissors.
- ◆ Tweezers.
- ◆ Needle.
- ◆ Moistened towelettes.
- ◆ Antiseptic.
- ◆ Thermometer.
- ◆ Tongue blade (2).
- ◆ Tube of petroleum jelly or other lubricant
- ◆ Assorted sizes of safety pins.
- ◆ Cleansing agent/soap.
- ◆ Latex gloves (2 pair).
- ◆ Sunscreen
- ◆ Aspirin or non-aspirin pain reliever.
- ◆ Anti-diarrhea medication.
- ◆ Antacid (for stomach upset).
- ◆ Syrup of Ipecac (use to induce vomiting if advised by the Poison Control Center).
- ◆ Laxative.

G. Tools and Supplies: (Another good list of suggestions for any type disaster) .

- ◆ Mess kits or paper cups, plates and plastic utensils.
- ◆ Pliers or Leatherman type multi-tool.
- ◆ Battery operated radio and extra batteries.
- ◆ Flashlight and extra batteries.
- ◆ Cash and change.
- ◆ Non-electric can opener, utility knife.
- ◆ Fire extinguisher: ABC type.
- ◆ Tape.
- ◆ Matches in waterproof container.
- ◆ Aluminum foil.

- ◆ Plastic storage containers and Ziploc type bags.
- ◆ Paper, Pencil.
- ◆ Needles, thread.
- ◆ Medicine dropper.
- ◆ Shut-off wrench, to turn off household gas and water.
- ◆ Plastic sheeting.

H. Sanitation/Hygiene:

A simple, temporary toilet can be made with a five-gallon pail or similar size sturdy plastic bucket. Line the pail with a plastic bag. For comfort in sitting, an inexpensive seat can be purchased or cut from scrap plywood. Tie the bag and store outside, out of the sun if possible, and away from animals. Being January, the contents will probably freeze and not be a sanitation problem until warm weather arrives. Check with County sanitation and hygiene workers regarding later proper disposal. Wash hands.

- ◆ Toilet paper, towelettes.
- ◆ Soap, liquid detergent.
- ◆ Feminine supplies.
- ◆ Personal hygiene items.
- ◆ Plastic garbage bags, ties (for personal sanitation uses).
- ◆ Plastic bucket with tight lid.
- ◆ Disinfectant.
- ◆ Household chlorine bleach.

I. Clothing:

We regularly survive and thrive at cold weather events such as Packer games. This is no different. If you begin to get chilled, move around a bit to get warmed up again.

- ◆ Sturdy, warm shoes & boots adequate for conditions. We live here, we already have these.
- ◆ Warm hat and gloves or mittens.
- ◆ Thermal underwear. Don't go out and spend lots of money on high-tech underwear, layers of pajamas and other such items will work as well.
- ◆ Chemical or white gas fueled handwarmers.
- ◆ Electric socks will use too many batteries.

J. Bedding:

As with clothing, it is not necessary to purchase high-tech solutions. Our forefathers did well simply by adding another blanket or two. Be sure to allow the air you breath to escape (i.e. don't cover yourself with a plastic material) or moisture will collect in the bedding and your insulation material will become wet and useless.

- ◆ Blankets or sleeping bags.

K. Stress:

Fear and physical signs or symptoms of stress are normal reactions before and during dangerous/life-threatening situations. Learn not to let fear or stress keep you from functioning adequately. Talk about what is happening with friends and family.

- ◆ Learn ways to relax quickly.
- ◆ Give each other moral support if things are tough.
- ◆ Care for friends and neighbors and work together to provide everyone food, water, sleep and shelter. Protect against heat, cold and poor sanitation conditions.

Pessimists tend to think any efforts to change them or the situation will be futile, so they don't try, therefore, minimizing their chances for success.

Optimists use coping strategies that increase their likelihood of success. At least try to resolve or make situations more manageable. Persevere but be realistic. When reason tells you a situation is out of your hands, accept it and refuse to dwell on troubles.

L. Special Items:

Remember family members with special needs, such as infants and elderly or disabled persons.

<i>Baby</i>	<i>Adult</i>
Formula	Heart and high blood pressure medication
Diapers	Insulin
Bottles	Prescription drugs
Powdered milk	Denture needs
Medications	Contact lenses and supplies

Entertainment

If the power goes out, kids and adults will perhaps have long hours with no heat and little light. Plan ways to keep busy.

Games, books and outdoor exercise

M. Suggestions and Reminders for Stored Items:

Store the above kits in a convenient place known to all family members. A small car kit is a good idea if travel is necessary.

- ◆ Store items in airtight plastic bags.
- ◆ Change stored water supply after six months (why discontinue a good disaster preparedness habit). Change stored food also after six months.
- ◆ Check or replace batteries.
- ◆ Check with physician or pharmacist about storing prescription medications.

N. Utilities:

- ◆ Locate main electric fuse or breaker box. Check on public announcements regarding shutting off. Ask your local utility for information and safe practices.
- ◆ Locate water service main. Determine whether to drain (and how to safely drain beforehand). Again, there will be public announcements by any available means.
- ◆ Locate gas main, if any. Have the necessary wrench available to shut it off if directed or prudent to do so. Ask your local utility for information and safe practices. (If you turn the gas off, you will need a professional to turn it back on).

O. Car Travel Tips:

If you must travel and have sufficient fuel and have a safe, more secure destination follow these tips adapted

from Natural Disaster Planning Section, Wisconsin Division of Emergency Management, Department of Military Affairs:

- ◆ Make sure your vehicle is in good operating condition, winterized and properly serviced and equipped.
- ◆ Determine road conditions by stopping at the police or sheriff's department. Advise them and neighbors of your plans and destination. People who care about you will want to know where you are.
- ◆ Spare fuel should not be carried inside the vehicle or trunk.

Winter Car Kit

It is always a good idea to have a winter travel kit in each car. If this is not practical, borrow some of these items from your home kit. Suggested items:

- ◆ Blankets or Sleeping Bag for each traveler.
- ◆ Warm, extra clothing. Head cover, mittens or gloves and warm boots.
- ◆ High calorie, nonperishable food. Candy, canned nuts, raisins, etc.
- ◆ Drinking water (keep from freezing).
- ◆ Matches, candles, solid fuel (sterno), chemical hand warmers. Proper ventilation is essential. One person must stay awake if candles, catalytic heaters, etc. are burning.
- ◆ Pocket knife or Leatherman type tool and first aid kit.
- ◆ Facial or toilet tissue.
- ◆ Transistor radio with extra batteries.
- ◆ Flashlight and extra batteries.
- ◆ Battery booster/jumper cables.
- ◆ Signal flares.
- ◆ Shovel.
- ◆ Two tow chains.
- ◆ Sand or kitty litter for traction if stuck.
- ◆ Basic repair tools.
- ◆ Axe. Suggested for cutting tree branches for traction if stuck.
- ◆ Fire extinguisher.
- ◆ Extra motor oil. Can be used to set a fire in a hubcap outside the vehicle as a signal if stranded.
- ◆ Gas line deicer.
- ◆ Windshield scraper.
- ◆ Distress flag.
- ◆ Games.

If stalled

- ◆ Keep calm.
- ◆ Stay in vehicle. Do not attempt to walk out of a blizzard. You are much more likely to be found by staying in your vehicle.
- ◆ Avoid overexertion and exposure.
- ◆ Open vehicle windows or doors occasionally so they don't freeze shut.
- ◆ Fresh air. Avoid carbon monoxide and oxygen starvation if using a candle, etc.
- ◆ Run motor and heater sparingly. Down-wind window should be opened slightly for ventilation. Rule of thumb is 15 minutes per hour.
- ◆ Turn on dome light at night to be visible to work crews.
- ◆ Keep watch; exercise to keep awake or to improve circulation.

P. Homeowners Insurance:

Insurance experts recommend reviewing your homeowners' policy before severe weather arrives.

- ◆ Does the policy cover the repair of any wind; flood or storm related damage that may occur?
- ◆ Is there a replacement cost provision, which is the amount it would take to replace or rebuild your home or repair damages with materials of similar kind and quality, without deducting for depreciation?
- ◆ An additional risk is when the limit on the policy is lower than the replacement value of the home. The homeowner who does not purchase enough coverage will pay a percentage of the cost to repair or replace each partial loss.

Q. Neighbors Helping Neighbors:

Meet with your neighbors, over the barbecue this summer, to plan how you can work together after any type of disaster until help arrives. Know your neighbor's special skills (e.g., medical, technical) and consider how you could help neighbors who have special needs, such as disabled and elderly persons.

R. Going to a shelter or sheltering in place:

Listen to local news and public warning systems to determine if evacuation is necessary. Unfortunately, if electrical power is lost in the entire region, there will be little benefit to evacuating because there will not be enough shelter space available for everyone. For most of us, sheltering in place will be necessary.

Individuals unable to cope by themselves will need to be given first consideration regarding moving to available shelters, which have heat and electricity.

For those requiring evacuation:

- ◆ Contact authorities or neighbors if help is needed.
- ◆ Wear appropriate clothing and shoes.
- ◆ Take your Disaster Supplies Kit.
- ◆ Lock your home.
- ◆ Notify shelter authorities of any special need you may have. They will do their best to accommodate you and make you comfortable.

If there is enough time:

- ◆ Shut off water, gas and electricity if instructed to do so and if you know how. Gas must be turned back on by a professional.
- ◆ Let others know when you left and where you are going. Make arrangements for pets. Animals other than working animals may not be allowed in public shelters.

S. Pets:

One week supply of food and water; be prepared for pet hygiene needs.¹

Monetary:

Have some extra cash on hand, in case computer controlled electronic transactions involving ATM cards, credit cards, etc. cannot be processed. Keep cash in a safe place and withdraw money from your bank accounts in small amounts well in advance of December 31, 1999, to avoid long lines at the bank due to last minute concerns.

Smoke/Carbon Monoxide Alarms:

If you have smoke alarms that are hard-wired into your home's electrical system, check to see if they have battery back up. Replace used batteries annually.

Information Sources Used for this booklet:

1. University of Wisconsin-Extension, Pennsylvania State University-Extension
2. University of Wisconsin-Extension, Pennsylvania State University-Extension, North Carolina Cooperative Extension Services
3. University of Wisconsin-Extension, Pennsylvania State University-Extension
4. University of Wisconsin-Extension
5. University of Wisconsin-Extension, Pennsylvania State University-Extension
6. American Red Cross, Wisconsin Emergency Management, Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection.
7. The Post-Crescent Business News.