

HAZARDS AND THREATS: EXTREME COLD AND WINTER STORMS

INTRODUCTION

Los Angeles County features one of the country's best winter sports areas, where heavy snowfall and extreme cold may take effect. While the danger from winter weather varies across the County, regardless of where residents live, they are likely to face some type of severe winter weather at some point in their lives. Extreme cold and/or winter storms range from a moderate snow over a few hours to a blizzard with wind-driven snow that last for several days. Many winter storms are accompanied by dangerously low temperatures and sometimes strong winds, icing, sleet and freezing rain.

One of the primary concerns is the winter weather's ability to knock out heat, power and communications services to your home or office, sometimes for days at a time. Heavy snowfall could immobilize an entire region of the County.

The National Weather Service refers to winter storms as the deceptive killers because most deaths are indirectly related to the storm. Instead people die in traffic accidents on icy roads and of hypothermia from prolonged exposure to the cold.

The Los Angeles County Chief Executive Office, Office of Emergency Management wants you to be prepared for this extreme weather condition.

While they may keep you warm during the cold winters, space heaters or lamps can potentially cause a fire and should be kept at least three feet from drapes and furniture.

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