

# #WinterReady Partners Toolkit

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## Purpose

This toolkit provides messaging, graphics and resources to help you community protect lives, educate the public on the risks of winter weather, promote fire safety, and urge caution when travelling in winter weather.

By using the hashtag #WinterReady and sharing winter safety and preparedness messages you can provide information to your communities and encourage survivors to:

- Know their winter weather risk.
- Be fire safe.
- Travel with supplies and caution.
- Take steps now to prepare.

## About the Campaign

Launched in mid-November, the #WinterReady campaign acknowledges that while individuals and communities across the nation face severe winter weather with different levels of experience and infrastructure to handle extreme winter events. Because winter weather brings risks that can be avoided with appropriate preparation, this campaign will run through the end of February.

## Toolkit Sections

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## Websites

- [#WinterReady | Ready.gov](#)

The #WinterReady page has tips and resources people can use to learn how to protect themselves from common cold-weather risks, including frostbite and hypothermia, home heating fires, carbon monoxide poisoning and preparing for winter travel. The page also includes steps people can take to prepare for power outages and tips for people who need [low-cost solutions for home heating](#) are an [older adult](#), [work or play outside](#), or [don't typically experience winter weather](#),

- [Listo.gov: Razones para estar #WinterReady](#)

The Listo page has the same resources as the English language #WinterReady page.

- [USFA | Prevent Home Fires](#)

The U.S. Fire Administration has many downloadable, co-brandable graphics and materials on a wide variety of fire safety topics for social media and beyond.

- [CDC | Educational Materials by Topic | Disasters](#)
- [CDC | Hypothermia | Winter Weather](#)

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention educational materials page has fact sheets, flyers and pictograms in multiple languages for many common cold-weather hazards, including carbon monoxide poisoning, generator and furnace safety. Additionally, materials on preventing, recognizing and treating hypothermia are available in English and Spanish at the second link above.

## Sample Text for E-mails, Handouts, Flyers and More

While heat waves are on the increase and garner well-deserved attention from the media, a recent study by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) found that far more deaths occur due to exposure to the cold. In fact, [an analysis by the CDC](#) of U.S. temperature-related deaths between 2006 and 2010 showed that 63% were attributable to cold exposure. Cold weather brings other risks, like home fires and travel risks – especially if you travel by car. That's want everyone to be #WinterReady so they can stay safe during the winter months.

Understanding the hazards and risks associated with cold weather and winter storms is the first step to make sure you're #WinterReady. Like preparing for other natural hazards, you should have emergency supplies at home, at work and in the car. You should also understand how to prevent home heating fires and carbon monoxide poisoning. Visit [#WinterReady | Ready.gov](#) to learn about some of the common hazards you might face when the weather turns cold. Because some people have situations that need a little more attention, the page includes [low-cost solutions for home heating](#), advice for [older adults](#), and those [work or play outside](#) or [don't typically experience winter weather](#). The page also has downloadable resources on staying warm, winterproofing your home, winter travel safety and preparedness flyers from our federal partners.

## Sharable Social Media Graphics and Recommended Text

Additional [#WinterReady Safety Graphics](#) will be available throughout the campaign, so be sure the check back frequently.

## Sample Generic #WinterReady Social Media Messages:

- Stay #WinterReady and know the signs of frostbite & hypothermia ahead of time:
  - Frostbite: Numb, gray-yellow or waxy skin.
  - Hypothermia: Shivering, exhaustion, confusion.
- Bundling up and staying dry are two of the best things you can do to stay safe from cold temperatures this fall and winter. Learn to protect yourself from the cold at: [ready.gov/winter-ready](https://www.ready.gov/winter-ready)
- If a snowstorm is heading to your area, have different ways to receive information:
  - Sign up for alerts from your local [U.S. National Weather Service \(NWS\) office](https://www.weather.gov).
  - Download the FEMA mobile app to get safety tips.
  - Check the Wireless Emergency Alert settings on your phone: [ready.gov/alerts](https://www.ready.gov/alerts).
- Get #WinterReady: make a plan to connect before a storm by text, e-mail, social media & cell: [www.ready.gov/plan](https://www.ready.gov/plan) #WinterReady
- Learn how to stay safe before, during, & after winter storms & extreme cold by visiting: [ready.gov/winter-ready](https://www.ready.gov/winter-ready) #WinterReady
- Talk with your family about how to get prepared for extreme #cold weather: [www.ready.gov/kids/know-the-facts/winter-storms-extreme-cold](https://www.ready.gov/kids/know-the-facts/winter-storms-extreme-cold) #WinterReady
- Before a winter storm, know what to do “When the Sky Turns Gray.” Watch this: [www.youtube.com/watch?v=XVpGJ\\_Xl\\_w](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XVpGJ_Xl_w) #WinterReady
- Follow weather alerts in up to 5 locations using the [@fema](https://www.fema.gov) app. Learn more: <https://youtu.be/DtF18YHjG-I> #WinterReady
- Stay safe during winter weather. Monitor weather alerts and have a preparedness kit ready. [www.ready.gov/kit](https://www.ready.gov/kit) #WinterReady
- Prepare for winter storms and cold weather with the kids by playing the disaster master game: [www.ready.gov/kids/games](https://www.ready.gov/kids/games). Password hint: SLEET
- Snow Prep tips: check on neighbors, charge cell phones, find flashlights (check batteries) and follow local officials online. #WinterReady



Prepare for Power Outage [Download Graphic](#)



Be a Good Neighbor! [Download Graphic](#)



Un-Prepared [Download Graphic](#)



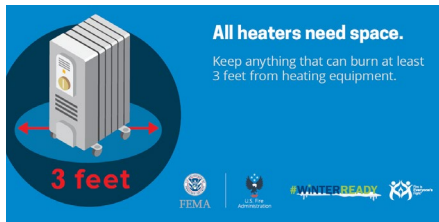
When the Snow Falls [Download Graphic](#)

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## Home Heating Safety Social Media Messages and Graphics:

### Space Heaters:

- Space heaters cause 1/3 of home heating fires and 4/5 home heating fires deaths. Protect your family with tips from USFA <http://www.nfpa.org/public-education/by-topic/top-causes-of-fire/heating> #WinterReady
- Staying warm with a space heater? Make sure it has an auto shut-off in case it tips over. Check on family/friends today #WinterReady
- Keep anything that can burn at least 3 feet away from a fireplace, wood stove, or space heater. #WinterReady
- Watch this short video from @usfa to learn how to prevent portable heater fires in your home this [winter](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9AMQ1ASnmNU): <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9AMQ1ASnmNU>



All Heaters Need Space [English](#)



All Heaters Need Space [Spanish](#)



Plug Space Heaters into Wall Outlets [English](#)



Plug Space Heaters into Wall Outlets [Spanish](#)

**Heating General Safety:**

- Heating is the 2nd leading cause of home fires after cooking. Get #WinterReady tips from USFA [www.usfa.fema.gov/prevention/outreach/heating.html](http://www.usfa.fema.gov/prevention/outreach/heating.html)
- Winter fires can be deadly. When using your fireplace always keep a metal or heat tempered screen around it to stay safe. #WinterReady
- If you're running a portable generator, you need to have a working carbon monoxide alarm in your home. #WinterReady
- #WinterReady Tip: NEVER use a generator, camp stove, charcoal grill, gasoline or propane heater indoors.
- NEVER heat a home by using the stovetop or oven. #WinterReady
- #DYK? Home heating is the second leading cause of home fires, and winter is when most home fires happen. Download the free Home Fire Safety Guide from @USfire and learn about how to prepare for and prevent home fires at <http://ready.gov/winter-ready>. #WinterReady



Stay Safe When Heating Your Home (Spanish)(Square) [Download Graphic](#)



Stay Safe When Heating Your Home (Square) [Download Graphic](#)



Stay Safe When Heating Your Home (Spanish)(Instagram Story) [Download Graphic](#)

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Stay Safe When Heating Your Home (Instagram Story) [Download Graphic](#)

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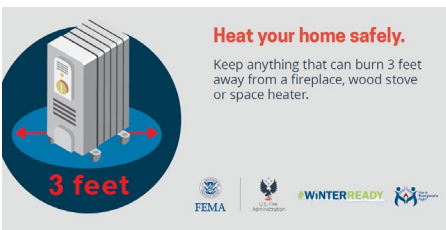
Stay Safe When Heating Your Home (Spanish)(Facebook and Twitter)[Download Graphic](#)

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Stay Safe When Heating Your Home (Facebook and Twitter) [Download Graphic](#)

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Heat Your Home Safely [English](#)



Heat Your Home Safely [Spanish](#)

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Never Use Your Oven Or Stove For Heat gif in [English](#)



Never Use Your Oven Or Stove For Heat gif [Spanish](#).

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**Clean Your Chimney:**

- Winter is here! Are you using a chimney or fireplace to stay warm? Remember:
  - Keep anything that can burn at least 3 feet from all heat sources
  - Do not burn paper or other materials
  - Put the fire out before you go to bed or leave the houseFor more tips, follow [U.S. Fire Administration](#)
- Have chimneys, vents and woodstove pipes cleaned and inspected by a qualified professional at least once [U.S. Fire Administration](#)



Have Chimneys And Vents Inspected gif [English](#)



Have Chimneys And Vents Inspected gif [Spanish](#)

**Use Natural Gas Safety:**

- Are you [#WinterReady](#)? If you're using natural gas to heat your home, make sure you install battery-operated carbon monoxide detectors in every room and test them often. If there is a leak, get out immediately & call 911. [ready.gov/winter-ready](https://www.ready.gov/winter-ready)



**Use Natural Gas Safety (Spanish)(Square)** [Download Graphic](#)

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**Use Natural Gas Safety (Square)** [Download Graphic](#)

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**Use Natural Gas Safety (Spanish)(Instagram Story)** [Download Graphic](#)

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**Use Natural Gas Safety (Instagram Story)** [Download Graphic](#)

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**Use Natural Gas Safety (Spanish)(Facebook and Twitter)** [Download Graphic](#)

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**Use Natural Gas Safety (Facebook and Twitter)** [Download Graphic](#)

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**Wood Fire Safety:**

- Winter fires can be deadly. When using your fireplace always keep a metal or heat tempered screen around it to stay safe. #WinterReady
- Keep anything that can burn at least 3 feet away from a fireplace, wood stove, or space heater. #WinterReady



Use Your Fireplace Safely gif [English](#)



Use Your Fireplace Safely gif [Spanish](#).



Wood Stove Stay Fire Safe This Winter gif [English](#)



Wood Stove Stay Fire Safe This Winter gif [Spanish](#).

**Stay Safe by Staying Inside:**



**Stay Inside When It's Freezing (Spanish)(Square)** [Download Graphic](#)

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**Stay Inside When It's Freezing (Square)** [Download Graphic](#)

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**Stay Inside When It's Freezing (Spanish)(Instagram Story)** [Download Graphic](#)

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**Stay Inside When It's Freezing (Instagram Story)** [Download Graphic](#)

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**Stay Inside When It's Freezing (Spanish)(Facebook and Twitter)** [Download Graphic](#)

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**Stay Inside When It's Freezing (Facebook and Twitter)** [Download Graphic](#)

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**Sample Winter Travel and Driving Safety Social Media Messages and Graphics:**

- Stay off icy roads when #WinterStorm advisories & watches are issued. #WinterReady

- [#WinterReady](#) travel tip: follow directions from local officials & build an emergency car kit. More tips [www.ready.gov/winter](http://www.ready.gov/winter)
- Stay off roads during & after a #storm. If you must drive "Don't Crowd the Plow!" #WinterReady
- Prepare your car for winter: keep your gas tank near full to help avoid ice in the tank and fuel lines. #WinterReady
- Ice and snow, take it slow—slower speed, slower acceleration, slower steering, and slower braking. #WinterReady
- It's best to stay off the roads after a snowstorm but if you must drive don't crowd the plow, it could affect visibility. Don't pass snowplows & drive slowly.



Stay off the Road (Spanish)(Square) [Download Graphic](#)

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Stay off the Road (Square) [Download Graphic](#)

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Stay off the Road (Spanish)(Instagram Story) [Download Graphic](#)

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Stay off the Road (Instagram Story) [Download Graphic](#)

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**Stay off the Road (Facebook and Twitter)** [Download Graphic](#)

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**Stay off the Road (Facebook and Twitter)** [Download Graphic](#)

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### Car Safety:

- Snow & ice hazards may create a high risk of car accidents. If your area is expecting winter weather, prepare for safe travel. Pack your vehicle with emergency supplies, including jumper cables, sand, flashlights, phone charger, warm clothes, blankets, & an ice scraper.
- Hitting the road this winter? [An emergency kit for your car](#) might come in handy when you least expect it! #WinterReady
- Travel during the winter has unique risks, especially if you travel by car. Being prepared can help you “expect the unexpected” so your trip isn’t ruined by common problems travelers face in the winter.



**Build an Emergency Car Kit (Spanish)(Square)** [Download Graphic](#)

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**Build an Emergency Car Kit (Square)** [Download Graphic](#)

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**Build an Emergency Car Kit (Spanish)(Instagram Story)** [Download Graphic](#)

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**Build An Emergency Car Kit (IG Story)** [Download Graphic](#)



**Build an Emergency Car Kit (Spanish)(Facebook and Twitter)** [Download Graphic](#)



**Build an Emergency Car Kit (Facebook and Twitter)** [Download Graphic](#)

## Printable Flyers

These flyers can be printed as handouts, posters or used on your social media or web pages. #WinterReady versions of the graphics will be available on [#WinterReady Safety Flyers and Handouts | Ready.gov](#) soon.

Additionally, other fire preparedness materials can be found on the [U.S. Fire Administration Fire Prevention and Community Risk Reduction page](#). Most graphics and publications can be cobranded with your city emergency management or fire department logo.

**Carbon Monoxide Safety**

Did you know?  
More than 150 people in the U.S. die every year from accidental nonfire-related carbon monoxide poisoning.

Carbon monoxide or CO is a colorless and odorless gas. CO poisoning can occur when a fuel-burning appliance or machine, such as a furnace, heater or generator, is not working or vented properly. Breathing in CO at high levels can be fatal.

Learn what you can do to protect your family from the dangers of CO.

- Install and maintain CO alarms inside your home to provide early warning of CO.
- Install CO alarms in a central location outside each separate sleeping area and on every level of your home.
- Use portable generators outdoors in well-ventilated areas away from all people and structures.
- Make sure vents for the dryer, furnace, stove and fireplace are clear of snow and other debris.

For more information and free resources, visit [www.usfa.fema.gov](http://www.usfa.fema.gov)

FEMA U.S. Fire Administration Click here to enlarge

**Carbon Monoxide Safety flyer** [English](#)



**Seguridad contra el monóxido de carbono**

¿Sabía usted que?

Más de 150 personas en los Estados Unidos muere cada año de manera accidental por intoxicación de CO y sin estar relacionado con los incendios.

El monóxido de carbono o CO es un gas sin color ni olor. La intoxicación por CO ocurre cuando un electrodoméstico o un equipo, como un horno, un calentador o un generador, no funcionan o ventilan correctamente. Aspirar CO a niveles elevados puede ser fatal.

Conozca qué puede hacer para proteger a su familia de los peligros del CO.

- Instale detectores de CO dentro de su hogar y revíselos periódicamente para tener alertas tempranas de CO.
- Instale detectores de CO en una ubicación central afuera de cada área de dormir y en cada nivel del hogar.
- Utilice generadores portátiles de exterior en áreas bien ventiladas alejadas de todas las puertas, ventanas y ventilaciones.
- Asegúrese de que las ventilaciones de la secadora, el horno, la estufa de leña y la chimenea estén limpias de nieve y otros escombros.

Para obtener más información y recursos, visite [www.usfa.fema.gov](http://www.usfa.fema.gov)

FEMA | U.S. Fire Administration | Haga clic aquí para agregar la imagen.

Carbon Monoxide Safety flyer [Spanish](#)



**Heating Your Home Safely**

Did you know?

Home fires occur more in the winter months than any other time of the year.

Follow these heating tips to help prevent winter fires and to stay safe this winter season:

- Keep anything that can burn at least 3 feet from all heat sources including fireplaces, wood stoves, radiators, space heaters or candles.
- Never use an oven to heat your home.
- Turn space heaters off when leaving the room or going to bed.
- Maintain heating equipment and chimneys by having them cleaned and inspected each year by a professional.

For more information and free fire-safety resources, visit [www.usfa.fema.gov](http://www.usfa.fema.gov).

FEMA | U.S. Fire Administration | Click here to add image.

Home Heating Safety flyer [English](#)



**Cómo calentar su hogar de manera segura**

¿Sabía usted?

Los incendios en el hogar ocurren con más frecuencia en los meses de invierno que en cualquier otra época del año.

Siga estos consejos de calefacción para evitar incendios y mantenerse seguro durante este invierno:

- Mantenga todos los objetos que puedan incendiarse a una distancia de por lo menos 3 pies (0.9144 metros) de todas las fuentes de calor, entre otros, las chimeneas, estufas de leña, radiadores, calentadores de ambiente o velas.
- Nunca use un horno para calentar su hogar.
- Apague los calentadores de ambiente cuando salga de la habitación o se vaya a dormir.
- Pídale a un profesional que limpie e inspeccione el equipo de calefacción y chimeneas todos los años.

Para obtener más información y recursos gratis sobre la seguridad contra incendios, visite [www.usfa.fema.gov](http://www.usfa.fema.gov).

FEMA | U.S. Fire Administration | clic aquí para agregar una imagen.

Home Heating Safety flyer [Spanish](#)

Winter Fire Safety

## Portable Generators and Winter Storms



Portable generators are useful during winter storms, but if not used safely, they can cause injuries and death.

- Use portable generators outdoors in well-ventilated areas away from all doors, windows and vents.
- Make sure you have carbon monoxide alarms in your home.
- Do not use a generator in a wet area. This can cause shock or electrocution.
- Connect appliances to the generator with heavy-duty extension cords.
- Do not fuel your generator when it is running. Spilling gas on a hot engine can cause a fire.



For more information and free resources, visit [www.usfa.fema.gov](http://www.usfa.fema.gov).

FEMA U.S. Fire Administration

Portable Generators and Winter Storm flyer [English](#)

Invierno de seguridad contra incendios

## Los generadores portátiles y las tormentas de invierno



Los generadores portátiles son útiles durante las tormentas de invierno, pero si no se utilizan de manera correcta, pueden causar daños y hasta provocar la muerte.

- Utilice generadores portátiles de exterior en áreas bien ventiladas alejadas de todas las puertas, ventanas y ventilaciones.
- Asegúrese de tener detectores de monóxido de carbono en su hogar.
- No utilice generadores en áreas húmedas. Esto podría producir un choque o una electrocución.
- Conecte los electrodomésticos al generador con cables de extensión resistentes.
- No rellene el generador cuando está en funcionamiento. El gas derramado sobre un motor caliente puede ocasionar un incendio.



Para obtener más información y recursos gratuitos, visite [www.usfa.fema.gov](http://www.usfa.fema.gov).

FEMA U.S. Fire Administration

Portable Generators and Winter Storm flyer [Spanish](#)

## Portable Heater Fire Safety



Follow these portable heater tips to help prevent winter fires and to stay safe this winter season.

Place space heaters on a solid, flat surface. Keep them at least three feet from things that can burn.



Check your space heater for cracked or damaged cords and plugs. Plug space heaters directly into wall outlets, don't use an extension cord or power strip.



For more information and free fire safety resources, visit [www.usfa.fema.gov](http://www.usfa.fema.gov).

FEMA U.S. Fire Administration

Portable Heater Safety flyer [English](#)



Put a Freeze on Winter Fires flyer [English](#)



Put a Freeze on Winter Fires flyer [Spanish](#)

## #WinterReady Social Media Toolkits

The #WinterReady toolkit, available in [English](#) and [Spanish](#), contains winter weather safety and preparedness messages you can share on your social media channels. You can either copy these messages directly or customize them to reach your audience.

## General Preparedness Videos/PSAs

[FEMA ASL Accessible: Personal Preparedness: I use a Wheelchair](#)

[FEMA ASL Accessible: Be Prepared When Disaster Strikes: What to Know if You Live with a Disability](#)

[FEMA ASL Accessible: Be Prepared When Disaster Strikes: What to Know if You Live with a Disability \(Spanish captions\)](#)

[FEMA ASL Accessible: Personal Disaster Preparedness: I am Blind \(short\)](#)

[FEMA | Learn the Sounds of Safety](#)



[FEMA | Fire Safety for Older Adults](#)

[FEMA | Facts About Fire 2023 \(shorts from this video are available on YouTube\)](#)

[FEMA | What to do during a blizzard](#)

[FEMA | During and After a Winter Storm](#)

[FEMA | How to Prepare for a Winter Storm](#)

[CDC | Prevent Carbon Monoxide Poisoning](#)

[CDC | Safe Use of a Portable Generator Following Severe Weather](#)

## **FEMA Podcasts, Webinars and Blogs**

[Before, During & After | FEMA.gov](#)

[5 Tips to Stay Warm and Safe This Winter | FEMA.gov](#)

[Staying Safe During Severe Winter Weather | FEMA.gov](#)

[Fire Safety Preparedness and Prevention | FEMA.gov via connectsolutions](#)

[A Partridge and A Prepared Me Webinar | FEMA.gov](#)