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Community Information: Winter Preparedness

Prepared By: Milwaukee County Office of the Sheriff Emergency Management Bureau

Winter storms are dangerous and can cause injuries and deaths from traffic accidents or from prolonged exposure to the cold. It is important to take proactive measures to prepare for winter weather. Winter storms can cause long term loss of heat, power and telephone services. If you plan to travel during winter weather avoid traveling alone and be sure to let someone know your travel schedule and travel routes. Please check the National Weather Service Forecast website frequently and get the latest information on winter road conditions from the Wisconsin Department of Transportation 511 Travel Info website. If a winter storm warning is issued, take the necessary precautions and consider canceling travel plans.

Get the latest Hazardous Weather Outlook and forecast messages for the Milwaukee metro area from the National Weather Service Milwaukee at their website: <http://www.crh.noaa.gov/mkx/>

Current road conditions are available from the State of Wisconsin Department of Transportation 511 Travel Info website: <http://www.511wi.gov/web/quicklinkwinterroad.aspx>

WINTER STORM PREPAREDNESS. The Milwaukee County Office of the Sheriff Emergency Management Bureau has worked closely with local agencies on winter storm preparedness. Our winter storm planning includes:

- Local mutual aid agreements for fire/EMS and police services
- Coordinating with local utilities for the restoration of services
- Maintaining resources to utilize 4x4 vehicles for emergency services
- Coordinating emergency messages and public information activities
- Assisting with American Red Cross emergency shelter operations
- Coordinating with local public works for debris removal

To help protect your family you should put together a disaster supplies kit for your home that includes:

- Flashlights and extra batteries
- Battery-powered radio and extra batteries
- Nonperishable food that requires no cooking, bottled water and manual can opener
- First-aid supplies
- Fire extinguisher, smoke detector and carbon monoxide detector
- If appropriate, extra medications and infant items
- If you have an emergency heating source -- make sure you have proper ventilation
- Make sure pets have food, water and shelter

If you are traveling during a winter storm, it is recommended that you carry a survival kit in your vehicle that includes:

- Blankets or sleeping bags
- Flashlight with extra batteries
- First-Aid Kit
- Shovel, tools, booster cables and windshield scraper
- High-calorie nonperishable food
- Sand or cat litter to use for traction

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The information provided on this form is true, complete and correct to the best of the MCSO's knowledge, and made in good faith. Send comments regarding this form, or the content contained therein, to MCSO Deputy Inspector Edward Bailey, care of the Milwaukee County Sheriff's Office, 821 W. State Street, Room 107, Milwaukee, WI 53233 (or via the web at ebailey@milwcnty.com). The information contained in this material is intended solely for the use of the community, and relies on unclassified information maintained by Milwaukee County, by the MCSO, and publicly available via the World Wide Web.

