



Tips for Skyland Estates Residents: Winter Storm Preparedness

Winter on the mountain is a VERY different experience from winter in suburbia. It is not for the faint of heart, and preparedness in advance of a storm is key. The SCC's resources are limited, and while our board members and employees work hard to clear roads and apply gravel quickly, we cannot guarantee a fast response in all cases. It is up to YOU to prepare for possible power outages and the need to get off the mountain in advance of the storm's arrival.

Below are some suggestions compiled from various state and local emergency authorities and from residents who have lived here for a long time. Please review and share with your friends, family, and neighbors.

- 1) **Avoid parking vehicles in the road in advance of a storm.** It's difficult for our diligent road crew to operate equipment effectively when there are cars parked in the road. It also creates a significant risk that fire and medical emergency responders will not be able to get where they need to if an emergency occurs. Cars that are blocking the road and that are not retrieved in a timely manner may be towed.
- 2) **Get your supplies BEFORE the storm hits.** Yes, we all joke about the runs on bread, milk, and toilet tissue, but there's a little more to it than that. Here are some things you might not have considered:
 - a) **Refill prescriptions before the storm hits.** This is especially important for people with potentially life threatening medical conditions whose health may be jeopardized by missing medication doses.
 - b) **If you don't already have it, get a supply of non-perishable food** that can be prepared without heat.
 - c) **Supplies for babies/toddlers/kids/seniors/disabled/special needs household members.** Ensure you have plenty of diapers, formula, wipes (in the case of babies), oxygen, wound/healthcare supplies, or other items needed by those in your home.
 - d) **Have drinking water set aside.** It's recommended to keep a minimum of 1-2 gallons per person per day, plus whatever is needed for pets.
 - e) **Have hand sanitizer and moist wipes on hand** for cleanup without water.
 - f) **Have a supply of plastic forks/knives/spoons and paper plates** to minimize the need to wash dishes.
 - g) Stock up on **flashlights, batteries, candles**, oil lamps, matches, and lighters.
 - h) Fill up **on gas / diesel / propane / kerosene / firewood** for generators, ATVs, tractors, heaters, and fireplaces.
 - i) **Do you have pets?**
 - i) Make sure you have adequate **food** on hand for 3-5 days for them.
 - ii) If they're on daily **medication**, make sure you have several days of that on hand.
 - iii) Waterless **spray shampoo or wipes** can be helpful to clean off paws and coats if needed.
- 3) **Plan for power outages by...**
 - a) Getting your supplies as described above.
 - b) Getting **dishes and laundry done** before the storm hits.



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- c) Filling up your bathtub with **water for emergency toilet flushing**.
 - d) Keeping electronic devices fully charged (cell phones, ereaders, tablets, etc) in advance of the storm. If communicating with these devices is critical, invest in one or more compact portable chargers and be sure they're fully charged prior to the storm.
 - e) Having a **non-electric source of heat** (wood stove / fireplace, kerosene heater, propane heater, etc).
 - f) If you have a generator, make sure you can start it and that you have fuel on hand for it.
- 4) **If you are "essential" at work, have a high-risk medical condition, or have some other pressing reason to leave the mountain during or immediately after the storm**, you should consider:
- a) Purchasing **tire chains** for your vehicle and learning to properly install and use them.
 - b) Staying with friends, family, or in a hotel closer your destination for a few days.
 - c) Making contingency arrangements for assistance with neighbors who do have 4WD and/or chains.