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Gov. Gregoire Urges Washingtonians to Monitor the Weather, Be Prepared

OLYMPIA – Governor Chris Gregoire today urged all Washingtonians to once again prepare themselves for potential poor weather. “I urge Washingtonians to, once again, take steps to prepare themselves for bad weather,” said Governor Gregoire. “The forecast is not nearly as bad as it was for the storms in December, but it is still a good idea to use common-sense and to check road conditions and your stock of emergency supplies.”

The Washington State Department of Transportation has the latest information on road conditions available on their web site at <http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/traffic/> or by dialing 5-1-1.

Washingtonians also are invited to download the *Emergency Resource Guide*, a publication of the Washington Department of Health and the Washington Emergency Management Division:
https://www.wadisasternews.com/posted/1105/Emergency_Resource_Guide_2007.139970.pdf.

The *Emergency Resource Guide* recommends these steps to prepare your:

Home

- Stock food, water and other supplies to last for 72 hours.
- Make sure your fireplace works correctly.
- Charcoal or gas grills or generators are designed for outdoor use only. Do not bring indoors.
- Prepare for power outages. Have flashlights and extra batteries.
- Have some ready cash on hand in case ATMs and banks are closed.

Vehicle

- Fill gas tank.
- Stay on main roads.
- Prepare to take extra time to get to your destination.
- Have rock salt or sand for car traction.
- Update the emergency kit for your car, including chains, blankets, extra clothes, food, water and snacks.
- Check on ice scraper and snow brush equipment.
- If you stop your vehicle, stay inside the vehicle.
- If trapped inside vehicle, clear tailpipe of snow. Run engine and heater about 10 minutes every hour.

Personal

- Wear layers of loose fitting, light-weight, warm clothing rather than one layer of heavy clothing.
- Wear mittens rather than gloves.
- Wear a warm, woolen cap on your head.
- Do not overexert if shoveling snow.
- If outside in the wind, watch for signs of frostbite or hypothermia.