

Stay Safe - Washington's Winter Weather

Exposure to winter weather can become life-threatening. Here are some conditions to be aware of.



Frostbite...

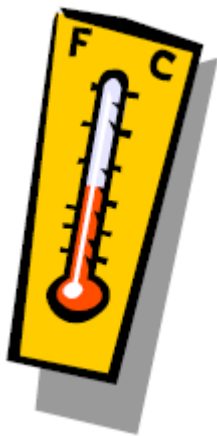
Frostbite is damage to body tissue caused by freezing of the tissue. Frostbite causes a loss of feeling and a white or pale appearance in extremities, such as fingers, toes, ear lobes, or the tip of the nose. If symptoms are detected, get medical help immediately. If you must wait for help, slowly re-warm affected areas.

Hypothermia...

Hypothermia occurs when the body temperature drops too low. Warning signs of hypothermia include uncontrollable shivering, memory loss, disorientation, slurred speech, drowsiness, and apparent exhaustion. If a person's temperature is below 95°F (35°C), seek medical care immediately. **If medical care is not available**, begin warming the person *slowly*. Get the person into dry clothing and wrap them in a warm blanket covering the head and neck. Do not give the person **hot** beverages or food; warm broth is better. Do not warm extremities (arms and legs) first. This drives the cold blood toward the heart and can lead to heart failure.

Overexertion...

Cold weather puts an added strain on the heart. Unaccustomed exercise such as shoveling snow or pushing a car can bring on a heart attack or make other medical conditions worse.



Pet Care...

When temperatures fall, pets need extra care. Bring pets inside when temperature reaches 30 degrees with wind chill. Dogs and cats can get frost bitten ears, nose and feet if left outside. Outdoor dogs need a dry, elevated house, with clean dry bedding and a flap over the opening to keep drafts out. Make sure water bowls are not frozen. Chemicals used to melt snow on sidewalks can irritate pets' paws and be sure to keep antifreeze, salt and other household poisons away from pets.



City of Bothell™

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