

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Contact: Stefanie Bond or Lucinda Robertson
515-725-3231
HSEMDPIO@iowa.gov

Nov. 7 designated as Winter Weather Awareness Day

DES MOINES – The Iowa Homeland Security and Emergency Management Department (HSEMD) and the National Weather Service (NWS) have designated Nov. 7, 2013, as Winter Weather Awareness Day in Iowa.

“As Iowans, we’re used to inclement weather,” said Stefanie Bond, public information officer for HSEMD. “However, it’s easy to become complacent when it comes to planning for the ‘what ifs’ of the winter season. Planning ahead can mean the difference between life and death.”

Bond says there are a few “must haves” when winterizing your car or home:

- A supply of food and water for each person in your home for at least three days
- At least a week’s supply of essential medications
- Personal hygiene items
- First aid kit
- Battery-operated flashlight and NOAA Weather Radio (and extra batteries)
- Extra clothing/bedding

Some items just for your vehicle:

- Window scraper
- Jumper cables
- Kitty litter or sand (for traction)
- Small shovel and other tools
- Brightly-colored cloth to use as a flag should you become stuck

Bond says that before you drive this winter, you should have a mechanic check all your car’s systems and fluid levels. “Keeping track of changing weather conditions is also very important during an Iowa winter,” she says.

Additional information about winter weather and winter driving safety, including downloadable brochures, emergency plans, and checklists, can be found at: www.BeReady.iowa.gov. Links to each of the National Weather Service office websites serving Iowa are also available.

The Iowa Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management leads, coordinates and supports homeland security and emergency management functions in order to establish sustainable communities and ensure economic opportunities for Iowa and its citizens.

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