



KENT COUNTY SHERIFF DEPARTMENT
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Winter Storm Watch Raises Safety Concerns

GRAND RAPIDS – Kent County Emergency Management is monitoring weather conditions as a Winter Storm Watch has been issued Monday afternoon through Tuesday morning. The forecast calls for freezing rain and high winds, with a quarter to half-inch of ice accumulation possible.

Kent County Emergency Management is encouraging residents to be prepared. “Make sure you have the supplies necessary before this event occurs,” says Jack Stewart, Kent County Emergency Management Coordinator. “The forecast of ice, along with wind gusts that could reach 40-50 miles an hour, could take down trees and power lines. Be sure you have a working flashlight and batteries, as well as rock salt or deicing items for your driveway/sidewalks.”

Make sure you have a basic emergency supply kit with the following:

- One gallon of water per person per day for at least three days
- Three-day supply of non-perishable food
- Battery-powered or hand crank radio and a NOAA Weather Radio with tone alert and extra batteries for both
- First aid kit

Now is a good time to make sure you have fuel for back-up generators. Never use grills, camp stoves, and generators inside of the house, the basement, and the garage. Follow the manufacturer’s instructions for any generators, grills, or stoves. These can be a carbon monoxide hazard if used improperly.

If you are driving anywhere during the storm, keep at least a half-tank of gas in your car and allow plenty of extra time to reach your destination. Let a family member or friend know of your travel plans. Keep a well-charged cell phone in the car, as well as an emergency kit with flares and a blanket within your reach. It’s also a good practice to keep fresh water and snacks in the car in case you become stranded for a long period of time.

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