



# DISASTER NEWS



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SNOW AND COLD WEATHER

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**“Let it snow, let it snow”—or maybe not.** After last year, many of us probably don’t want much snow this winter.

But, the snow and cold temperatures do remind us that it is past time to be prepared for times without heat and power, or being prepared to travel in bad weather.

The northern portions of our Columbia Union have been experiencing serious winter weather for a while now. The southern portion of Columbia Union is now also having their turn.

The news media in some areas has been reminding us how to have our cars checked out for battery strength, and that we should have a car safety kit with flares, etc. While that is useful, the media seems to forget that having several blankets and plenty of food and water in the vehicle for the occupants is almost more important.

**If you are traveling by land** during the Christmas and/or New Year holidays, you may want to be sure you have at least a blanket for each one in the vehicle, plus some healthy snack foods and water along. Even if the weather is not snowy or slick, it can be miserable sitting in traffic waiting for an accident to be cleared.

**It only takes getting caught in a traffic jam** for several hours to remind us that blankets, food, and water are very important. And the delay hopefully is not of your making.

**If you are traveling by air**, carrying food and water through the security checks can be a problem. Being prepared to purchase in-flight food may help. Experiencing long delays at the airport may be a part of the reality of winter and

holiday travel, as well. Being prepared to purchase food may be useful.

**For those staying at home this holiday season**, are you prepared to be without power and heat for more than an hour or so? As this newsletter is being written, southern Virginia and northern North Carolina are experiencing some power outages.

Do you have alternate heating and cooking methods quickly available? If you need to leave your home for even 24 hours—by choice or not—do you know how to turn off your water and protect the pipes in case the power and heat fail during your absence?

Do you have prepared foods and bottled water you can quickly take with you?

Many of you have taken the Adventist Community Services Disaster Response course, “Introduction to Disaster Preparedness”, where this planning is discussed. If you have not taken this training, it is highly recommended that you take it at your earliest opportunity.

**And what about your fellow church members?** Does your church have a plan in place to check on its members during cold and snowy times? You may be warm “as a bug in a rug”, but some of your fellow church members may be without food or heat. Develop a call-down list or other plan to maintain contact with all of your church members during these times. It is very miserable to be cold and hungry and feel that you have been forgotten by your fellow church members.

**REMEMBER the reason for the season. “For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given...” Isa 9:6.**