



Winter Weather Preparedness For Lake Arrowhead Residents

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The Hazards

Each year, dozens of Americans die due to exposure to cold. Add to that number, vehicle accidents and fatalities, fires due to dangerous use of heaters and other winter weather fatalities and you have a significant threat.

In Lake Arrowhead the most common issues during winter weather are treacherous road conditions, falling trees, and prolonged power outages. Response from Emergency Medical and Fire Services can be delayed due to unsafe road conditions.

Threats, such as hypothermia and frostbite, can lead to loss of fingers and toes or cause permanent kidney, pancreas and liver injury and even death. You must prepare properly to avoid these extreme dangers. You also need to know what to do if you see symptoms of these threats.

A major winter storm can last for several days and be accompanied by high winds, freezing rain or sleet, heavy snowfall and cold temperatures.



People can become trapped at home or in a car, without utilities or other assistance. Pipes can burst causing water to leak inside your home or basement.

Attempting to walk for help in a winter storm can be a deadly decision. Slips and falls on ice or snow can result in broken hips, elbows, or collar bones. Attempting to shovel snow when you're out of shape or not used to the exertion can result in cardiac failure.

The aftermath of a winter storm can have an impact on a community or region for days, weeks or even months. Extremely cold temperatures, heavy snow and ice accumulation can cause hazardous conditions and hidden problems. Falling trees or branches from heavy ice accumulations can bring down power lines, crush cars, or fall into houses or on people. Power outages are common in Lake Arrowhead during winter storms.

Winter Weather Awareness



Being aware of what's coming is important so you don't become a victim. Keep ahead of the storm by listening to **NOAA All Hazards Weather Radio** or staying tuned to local news or social media sources. [Here is a list of the warning types you will hear about from news and weather sources:](#)

- **OUTLOOK:** Winter storm conditions are possible in the next 2-5 days. Stay tuned to local media for updates.
- **WATCH:** Winter storm conditions are possible within the next 36-48 hours. Prepare now!
- **WARNING:** Life-threatening severe winter conditions have begun or will begin within 24 hours. Act now!
- **ADVISORY:** Winter weather conditions are expected to cause significant inconveniences and may be hazardous. If you are cautious, these situations should not be life threatening.

Actions to Take At Home

Primary concerns are loss of heat, power and telephone service and a shortage of supplies if storm conditions continue for more than a day.



Have available flashlights with extra batteries, battery powered radio, extra food and water, extra medicine (refill your prescriptions), first aid supplies, heating fuel, safe emergency heating source, smoke detector, carbon monoxide detector.

Actions to take for Your Car or At Your Office – Keep in your car:

Mobile phone, charger, batteries
Flashlight with extra batteries
High-calorie, non-perishable food
Large empty can to use as emergency toilet.
Shovel
Windshield scraper and brush
Tow rope
Bottled water



Blankets/sleeping bags
First-aid Kit
Knife, Fork, Spoon
Extra dry clothing
Sack of sand or cat litter for traction
Compass and road maps
Tool kit
Battery booster cables
Tissues, paper towels, toilet paper

Heavy coat/parka and Hiking Boots or shoes with suitable “snow” soles. Consider strap on “snow cleats”.

What to Do Before the Storm

During the winter months in Georgia, winter weather is always possible, so prepare now, not when you only have a few hours before the weather hits. When the news or National Weather Service begins reporting that winter weather is possible in the next few days, you should:

- Top off your car gas tanks, household propane tanks, and extra gas cans for generators.
- Shut off and drain outdoor water pipes, wrap exposed pipes to prevent freezing or bursting.
- Check your flashlights and have extra batteries. Keep your cell phone charged.
- Be sure you have plenty of bottled water for your whole family for 3-5 days (1 gallon per person per day just for drinking/cooking). That doesn't include washing or hygiene.
- Refill your prescriptions for medications and medical supplies so you have enough to last the storm.
- Stock up on easy to prepare and non-perishable foods (reheat or add hot water and serve) to feed your family for 3-5 days. Eggs, milk, and bread are not going to do it alone. Don't forget a hand operated can opener in case the power goes out. Be sure you have an alternative method to boil water outside the house if the power is out (camp stove, or propane grill burner).
- Check your car/office supplies as noted above in case you get stuck away from home.
- Talk with your child's school or teacher. Be sure you know their plan of action for winter weather.
- Don't forget food, water, and cold weather protection for your pets.
- Consider your neighbors whom you know may have special needs or are unable to get out to prepare for themselves.

When the Storm Hits

- **Stay home, hunker down, and stay off the roads!**
- Stay tuned to the news, social media, or NOAA Weather Radio for updates on storm conditions.
- Stay warm. Let the kids enjoy the winter weather outside if you'd like, but bundle them up and protect them from the cold especially fingers, ears, toes, and noses – they will get frostbite first.
- Keep your pets indoors where it's warm. Their feet will freeze much sooner than yours.
- If the power goes out, break out the board games and keep your family occupied.
- Do not attempt to shovel snow or ice if you are not in shape or not equipped to do so.
- Check on your neighbors. If they don't have heat – move them to your house.
- Do not use outdoor space heaters, camp stoves, or gas grills inside your house!
- If the power is out for more than a day or two, MINIMIZE TOILET FLUSHING or running water.

If You Have A Problem

- If you have a medical emergency, injury, property damage, or life threatening situation – CALL 911.
- If you are curious about road conditions in Lake Arrowhead – CALL 770-721-7900, Press 9 for road condition updates.
- If you need help and it's not a medical emergency or to report road conditions or downed trees – Call North Gate Security at 770-479-2565 and they will contact the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) or LAYCC Property Management.
- If your power goes out, report it to Amicalola EMC by calling 706-253-0359.

Social Media, E-Mail, and Smartphone Apps – Staying “Weather Aware”

- **“Like”:**
 - the [Lake Arrowhead CERT](#) Facebook page for community warnings and updates on weather conditions, special instructions, and status of community emergencies.
 - The [Cherokee County, GA Emergency Management](#) Facebook Page
 - The [US National Weather Service Peachtree City Georgia](#) Facebook Page
- **“Follow”:**
 - @LACERT30183 on Twitter for Community Updates and Warnings
 - @ema_CherokeeGA on Twitter for County Updates and warnings
 - @GeorgiaEMA on Twitter for State warnings, preparedness tips, etc.
 - @NWSAtlanta on Twitter for forecasts, warnings, advisories, etc.
- **“Subscribe”** to the LAPOA BLAST community e-mails by contacting asklapoa@gmail.com.
- **“Download”** the “Ready Georgia” mobile app from the App Store or Google Play



Before and During a Winter Storm, The Lake Arrowhead CERT Team:

- Will provide warnings and updates on the winter weather situation to the community, property management, and Cherokee County Emergency Management.
- Stay in close contact with Property Management, Cherokee County Fire, the National Weather Service, and Cherokee County Emergency Management as needed to communicate needs and provide situational updates.
- LA-CERT may coordinate Emergency Transportation with available volunteer 4 Wheel Drive Vehicle owners from the gates and nearby roads approaching LA to homes inside the community when safe and possible to do so. Resources are limited and cannot operate on icy roads.
- If available and where possible, the LA-CERT Chainsaw Team may provide assistance to LAYCC Property Management in handling any down trees (not on private property) that may block roads and restrict emergency responder access.
- May provide Non-Emergency Assistance to LA Residents with Special Needs wherever possible and where resources are available.
- Supplement Professional Responder Resources as requested when resources are available and where possible.