



Kingman County Commission

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Be aware and prepare now for winter

This year the National Weather Service will observe Winter Weather Awareness Day on Dec. 1.

“With the recent northern front bringing single digit temperatures and one light snow to Kingman County, we have already had our first taste of what winter may be like this year,” said Fred Simon, Kingman County Emergency Manager. “Hopefully we have already prepared and are ready for the hazards it may bring.”

Simon said research indicates 70 percent of fatalities related to ice and snow occur in vehicles. Please use caution when traveling this winter. Make sure your vehicle is properly maintained and its tires, wipers and other components are ready for the season. Have a kit ready for winter travel that includes extra blankets or sleeping bags, bottled water and snacks. Be aware of the weather forecast for the time you will be traveling. You can check on road conditions in Kansas by calling 511 or by going online at 511.ksdot.org.

You also should have a kit ready at home. It should contain a three day supply of food and water, a flashlight and other items (a disaster kit checklist is available on the Emergency Management page of the county’s website, kingmancoks.com). Should power be lost, use caution when using portable generators. Never operate them indoors. Cooking with charcoal, gas grills or camp stoves also should never be done indoors. Deadly levels of carbon monoxide can build up.

Use caution when going out in colder weather. Dress in layers that can be easily removed if necessary. Keep an eye on the very young and the elderly – they are more vulnerable to hypothermia. Wind chill affects any exposed skin and can cause frostbite or freezing. Covering these exposed areas may reduce or eliminate these risks.

Remember your pets and other animals. Make sure they have a warm place to stay, with dry bedding and out of the wind. In extreme temperatures they may need to be brought indoors. During colder temperatures their food intake also may need to be increased, as it takes more energy for them to keep warm. Water bowls need to be checked frequently when the temperature drops below freezing.

More information on winter weather preparedness is posted on the Emergency Management page on the county’s website. Or visit ready.gov or redcross.org.

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