

SMART THINKING

Winter 2022

Winter Storm Power Outages

- Stock up on emergency essentials ahead of winter storms. This includes extra blankets, batteries, power banks and car chargers for cellphones, flashlights, matches, drinking water, and non-perishable food.
- Consider purchasing a generator as a backup power source for your home. Have your generator installed by a professional in an area that allows for proper ventilation.
- Confirm your smoke and carbon monoxide detectors are battery operated and test to confirm they're working.
- Fill your vehicle's gas tank before a storm. Avoid travel during and after a storm unless absolutely necessary.
- Be sure your wood and pellet stoves are clean and ready for supplemental use during an outage.
- If you lose power, contain your home's heat by keeping exterior doors and windows closed and sealing any drafts.
- If pipes are located in cupboards, keep the cupboard doors open until power has been restored to help prevent freezing.
- If you need to utilize candles for light during a power outage, do not leave candles unattended or within reach of children and pets.
- Limit opening your fridge and utilize bags of snow and ice to keep food cold if necessary.
- Do not utilize open flame appliances such as a gas oven or portable grill to produce heat inside your home. These appliances produce toxic fumes including carbon monoxide and are combustible without proper ventilation.
- If you experience an ice storm, survey the exterior of your home for any branches or trees prone to fall on your home. Use extreme caution around electrical wires and report any downed wires to your utility company.

► WINTER WEATHER VEHICLE SAFETY REMINDER:

Be sure to clear ALL snow and ice off your vehicle before driving. Snow and ice left on your vehicle are dangerous as they can impair your visibility, creating blind spots while driving. Even thin layers of ice can dislodge and cause damage to other vehicles or worse – cause a serious accident.



Snow Removal Contract Recommendations

MMG recommends the following be included in writing between property owners/managers and snow removal contractors:

- A date range for when plowing services are to be conducted.
- The exact services to be provided as well as a specific location(s).
 - » Example Services: Plowing, shoveling, salting, sanding.
 - » Locations: List exact address(es) and where on the property each service is to be performed.
- An agreed upon location where the snow will be plowed to on the property. Flag any areas to avoid.
- Outline if stored snow will be removed from the property, by whom, and what constitutes a need for snow removal.
- Note what weather events trigger the plow contractor to come to the property.
 - » Example: After 2" of snowfall, during freezing rain, etc.
- Specify if sanding/salting services are included, and if so, exactly what services and where on the property they will be applied.
- Address if the contractor has a responsibility to inspect the property between snow events or if they are only required to visit the property when called by the owner/manager.
- Include an indemnification clause approved by legal counsel. No hold harmless language should require the contractor to defend or indemnify the owner/manager for their own fault.
 - » If a subcontractor is permitted and services contracted, indemnification language in the contract between the contractor and subcontractor should be in place as well. The language should require the subcontractor to defend and indemnify the primary contractor for losses arising out of the subcontractor's negligence.

All contracts should be reviewed by legal counsel to ensure the language is accurate and sufficiently addresses services offered.

Holiday Decorating Safety

✓ **CHRISTMAS TREES:** If you purchase an artificial tree, check the manufacturer's information to confirm it is fire resistant. If you are setting up a live tree, be sure to purchase a tree that is as fresh as possible. Cut the bottom 2" off the trunk before placing in the stand for maximum water absorption and water the tree often. Stand your tree a safe distance away from any fire or heat sources.

✓ **LIGHTS:** Inspect lights for any worn or frayed wiring, sockets, or missing bulbs prior to installation. Do not leave lights on when you are not home or overnight. Follow the manufacturer's instructions when stringing together more than one set of lights and limit the use of extension cords. Utilize GFCI outlets when possible.

✓ **CANDLES:** Lit candles should never be placed on or near Christmas trees or evergreens. Keep them away from curtains, table decorations, other flammable items, and out of reach of children and pets. Never leave candles unattended.

✓ **LADDERS:** If using a ladder to hang lights or decorations, avoid overextending while on the ladder. Always place your ladder in a safe position being mindful of ice, snow, powerlines, and other hazards. Use a helper to stabilize your ladder when in use.



Before you hit the trails this winter, take a moment to watch our snowmobiling safety video. Happy trails & safe riding!