

BACKDOOR READING FROM YOUR PARISH NURSE

WINTER STORM

Why talk about winter storms? 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, without utilities or other services. Heavy snowfall and blizzards can trap motorists in their cars. Attempting to walk for help in a blizzard can be a deadly decision.

Winter storms, and what causes them? A winter storm can range from a moderate snow over a few hours to blizzard conditions with blinding wind-driven snow that lasts from several days.

A NWS WATCH is a message that means that a severe thunderstorm means that a severe thunderstorm is expected in the next 6 hours. An NWS warning means a winter storm is occurring, or will soon occur, in

your area. A NWS blizzard warning means sustained winds or frequent gusts to 35 miles per hour or greater and considerable falling or blowing winds reducing visibility less than a quarter mile.

Winter storms are considered deceptive killers because most deaths are directly related to the storm. The leading cause of death during winter storms is from auto or other transportation accidents. Exhaustion and heart attacks caused by over exertion are the two most likely causes of winter storm related deaths. Elderly people account for the largest percentage of hypothermia victims.

House fires occur more frequently in the winter due to lack of proper precautions when using alternate heating sources.

Be sure, before winter that you install and inspect smoke alarms.

Source: Disaster Guide

Let it snow



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