

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.

People can become trapped at home or in a vehicle, without utilities or any other assistance. A major winter storm can last for several days and be accompanied by high winds, freezing rain, sleet, heavy snowfall and cold temperatures.

Threats, such as hypothermia and frostbite, can lead to loss of fingers or toes, other permanent injuries, or even death.

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 flooding caused by ice jams can create hazardous conditions and hidden problems.

It is very important to be prepared in case a winter storm strikes, and everyone should create a plan for what you and your family will do in case of a storm. Having your car fully checked and winterized, along with having supplies available if you are stranded for a period of time in your home or at work, are things that should be done before each winter season arrives.