



# MEDIA ADVISORY

## Department of Public Safety

Ohio Department of Public Safety • John Born, Director

[www.publicsafety.ohio.gov](http://www.publicsafety.ohio.gov)



SAFETY • SERVICE • PROTECTION

John R. Kasich, Governor

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 24, 2014

Contact: Tamara McBride, Ohio EMA (614) 799-3695

### State Agencies Warn Ohioans of the Dangerous *One-Two* Punch with Wind & Snow

Columbus – Ohioans need to be ready for a major winter weather one-two punch impacting the state over the next week. With temperatures currently at dangerous lows, and as snow and wind move into Ohio, residents are encouraged to heed to safety warnings and watches.

Ohioans are encouraged to **check on their neighbors** as temperatures across much of the state are expected to dip into the negative double-digits. Ohioans should get in touch with friends, family and loved ones, and help spread the word about how to stay safe in the extreme cold.

Be aware that **frostbite** can occur on exposed skin in less than 10 minutes. Symptoms include a loss of feeling and a white or pale appearance in fingers, toes, ear tips and tip of the nose. Limit your time outside. If you see these signs, seek medical care immediately.

Know the **signs of hypothermia** include shivering, exhaustion, confusion, fumbling hands, memory loss, slurred speech and drowsiness in adults and children. In infants, symptoms can include bright red or cold skin and very low energy. If you notice anyone exhibiting any of the symptoms of hypothermia, seek medical care immediately.

Stay cautious of **carbon monoxide danger**. Carbon monoxide is the leading cause of accidental poisoning deaths in the United States. When using alternate heating sources, carbon monoxide dangers rise. Symptoms of overexposure to carbon monoxide include headaches, fatigue, dizziness, shortness of breath, chest pain, nausea/vomiting, and confusion. If you or someone you know experience any of these symptoms, or your carbon monoxide detector sounds an alarm, seek shelter elsewhere immediately and call 911.

**Livestock Precautions-** Animals can suffer from hypothermia, frostbite and other cold weather injuries. Harsh conditions weaken their immune systems and open the door to illness. Calves and swine are especially susceptible to cold. Make sure animals have a place to get out of the wind, even if it is just a windbreak or a three-sided shelter. Be sure to provide dry bedding to protect them from frostbite and plenty of food because animals burn extra calories to keep warm in severe cold. They also need access to fresh water – not frozen streams or snow. Stock tank heaters and frost-proof watering devices will ensure that livestock get enough to drink.

-more-

**On the road** - If you are traveling make sure you have a winter emergency kit in your vehicle. Items to include in the kit a flashlight, pocket knife, snacks, a cell phone adapter, a blanket and extra clothing. Call #677 if you are in need of assistance. Remember Ice and Snow, Take it Slow, visit [ohgo.com](http://ohgo.com) to learn about road conditions before heading out.

Remember your **insurance tips** and take reasonable steps to prevent additional damage if permitted by public safety authorities and if you will not endanger yourself. If required to seek temporary housing, check your policy for “loss of use” coverage. Be sure everything is considered in your claim. Back up claims with written estimates.

For more information about winter safety visit [www.weathersafety.ohio.gov](http://www.weathersafety.ohio.gov) and [www.ready.ohio.gov](http://www.ready.ohio.gov)

###