

# CITY OF PORT ANGELES FIRE DEPARTMENT

## Winter Safety Tips

### **The use of a generator during power outages:**

- When purchasing a generator, make sure you get one listed with the Underwriters Laboratory (UL) or Factory Mutual (FM).
- Choose a generator that produces more power than will be drawn by the combination of lighting, appliances, and equipment you plan to connect to the generator.
- Follow the directions supplied with your generator. Never use portable generators indoors, this includes inside a garage. Adequate ventilation is necessary when running the generator.
- Make sure you have a properly working carbon monoxide alarm inside your home.
- Allow your generator to cool down before refueling. Store extra generator fuel in an approved safety can.
- Connect the equipment you want to power directly to the outlet on the generator. Do not hook up the generator to your home's electrical service, unless your home's power supply was installed with a disconnect to the main power feeding lines and the generator is installed according to applicable state and local codes.

### **Driving tips:**

- Don't be in a hurry and buckle up!
- Don't tailgate! It takes three to nine times longer to stop on rain, snow, or ice.
- Look ahead. Reduce your speed gradually before you reach stop signs, traffic lights or curves in the road.
- Break slowly. Avoid making sudden moves.
- Listen to travelers advisory and weather reports during any travel. Be prepared to get off the road if advised to do so.
- Keep an emergency survival kit in your car or truck.

### **Care for pets:**

- Be sure your pet has a warm dry place out of the elements to get warm.
- Remove snow and ice from your pet's coat to prevent frostbite.
- Check on your pet often and observe his behavior.
- On the coolest days, allow the pet to come indoors or a heated place in the garage.
- Feed smaller portions more often and be sure your pets have plenty of fresh water.

### **Water pipes:**

- Make sure heat is left on and set no lower than 55 degrees. If you plan to be away, have someone check your house daily to make sure your heat is still on.
- Make sure you and your family knows how to shut off the water, in case pipes burst. Stopping the flow of water can minimize the damage to your home.
- Never try to thaw a pipe with an open flame or torch.

**If the power goes out at home:**

- When using alternative heat from a fireplace, wood stove, space heater, etc., use fire safeguards and proper ventilation.
- Close off unneeded rooms.
- Stuff towels and rags in cracks and under doors to keep the heat in.
- Cover windows at night to keep heat in.
- Eat and drink; food provides the body with energy for producing its own heat.
- Wear layers of loose fitting, light weight, warm clothing. Remove layers as needed to avoid overheating, perspiration, and subsequent chills.

**When outside in winter weather:**

- Wear several layers of clothing with mittens or gloves on your hands. Use lined boots as footwear.
- Keep your neck, chest, and head covered if you must go out for short periods.
- If you become chilled while outside, go back inside and warm up slowly. Do not jump into a hot bath and this may cause you to go into shock.

**Holiday safety tips:**

- Choose a fresh Christmas tree and put in a stand designed not to tip over.
- Place the tree away from heat sources and exits and water the tree regularly.
- If you purchase an artificial tree, make sure it is labeled fire-retardant.
- If using candles, be sure the candles are placed in sturdy, noncombustible holders, and are kept well away from decorations and other combustible materials.
- For outdoor decorations, use only those lights labeled for outdoor use.
- Don't forget to unplug all lights before leaving home or going to sleep.

Safety of our families is crucial to a successful community. This information is provided by the City of Port Angeles Fire Department as a public service message on keeping safe this winter.

**If you have an emergency, call 9-1-1 immediately.**

For other social service information dial 2-1-1. For more non-emergency assistance from the Port Angeles Fire Department call 360-452-4545 during regular business hours or visit their webpage at [www.cityofpa.us/firedept.htm](http://www.cityofpa.us/firedept.htm)