

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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November 4-8 is Winter Awareness Week

RACINE – With winter weather already upon us, Racine County Executive Jonathan Delagrave has joined with Gov. Tony Evers in proclaiming Nov. 4-8, 2019, as Winter Awareness Week in Racine County, and he urges all residents to take steps to be prepared for winter weather.

“We live in Wisconsin and that means we can expect both snow and cold temperatures – even on Halloween,” Delagrave said. “Take the time now to finish winterizing your home, have your furnace checked and cleaned and put together a winter emergency kit for your car.”

Racine County is not immune from extreme winter weather. Last winter, a Polar Vortex gripped the county, resulting in schools and businesses closing due to extreme cold.

Steps you can take to winterize your home include insulating walls and attics, caulking and weather-stripping doors and windows, and installing storm windows or covering windows with plastic. Be sure to maintain heating equipment and chimneys by having them cleaned and inspected every year and insulate pipes with insulation to avoid freezing.

Winter emergency kits should include items such as food, water, a flashlight and batteries, and blankets. In your vehicle, include a snow shovel, extra gloves and hats, and kitty litter or sand to help give your wheels traction on icy roads in case you get stuck.

“Winter storms are considered deceptive killers,” commented David Maack, Racine County Emergency Management Coordinator. “Most deaths are indirectly related to the storm. People die in car accidents on icy roads, from overexertion while shoveling and hypothermia from extreme cold.”

According to the Wisconsin Department of Transportation, between 2014-2018 an average of 46 people were killed and almost 4,200 injured each year in crashes on icy or snow-covered roads in the state. On average, about 18,000 vehicle crashes in the state each year are caused by poor winter driving conditions.



“When winter weather is forecasted, check road conditions before you head out and if possible, delay your travel plans,” commented Maack. “If you must be out, slow down and take your time.”

For more information on winter weather safety, go to the Ready Racine County website (www.readyracineco.com).

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