



FLASH POINTS

Midwest winters are notorious for their bitter cold, heavy snowfall, and icy conditions. From December to February, temperatures frequently dip well below freezing, with January typically marking the coldest month. Arctic air masses can drive temperatures into the negative double digits, amplified by biting wind chills. Snowstorms and blizzards are common, while icy roads create hazardous travel conditions. Nevertheless, many embrace the challenges of winter by enjoying outdoor activities such as ice fishing, skiing, snowboarding, snowmobiling, and hiking.

Staying safe during winter starts with dressing appropriately for the weather. Layering warm, moisture-wicking clothing, wearing waterproof outerwear, and using insulated boots are essential for retaining heat. Frostbite and hypothermia pose significant risks, particularly during extended exposure to extreme cold. Protecting exposed skin and minimizing time outdoors in severe weather are crucial. Staying updated on weather alerts and following local authority warnings help ensure a safe and manageable winter season.

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PRODUCT SAFETY RECALLS



WINTER SAFETY

STAYING WARM & DRY

Winter safety starts with wearing appropriate clothing for the weather. Staying dry and adequately insulated is essential for preventing heat loss and ensuring your safety in extreme cold. Follow these important guidelines to stay warm, dry, and secure during the colder months:

- **Dress in layers:** Wear several loose-fitting, lightweight layers to trap heat effectively.
- **Choose wind-resistant outerwear:** To protect against harsh winds, opt for a tightly woven, windproof coat or jacket.
- **Protect extremities:** Wear a hat, mittens, and sturdy waterproof boots to keep your head, hands, and feet warm.
- **Cover your face:** Use a scarf to cover your mouth, warming the air you breathe and shielding your skin from frostbite.
- **Stay dry:** Wear moisture-wicking base layers to keep sweat away from your skin, and choose waterproof outerwear to prevent snow or rain from soaking through.
- **Avoid cotton:** Select materials like wool or synthetics that retain heat and dry quickly.

FROSTBITE VS HYPOTHERMIA

Frostbite and hypothermia are cold-related conditions that occur when the body is exposed to extreme cold for prolonged periods. Frostbite happens when skin and underlying tissues freeze, commonly affecting extremities like fingers, toes, ears, and the nose. Hypothermia, on the other hand, is a potentially life-threatening condition where the body's core temperature drops below 95°F and impairs normal bodily functions.



SAFETY KITS

Assembling a winter emergency kit for your home and vehicle is crucial for staying safe during cold weather and unexpected situations. These kits provide essential resources to help you navigate harsh conditions and unforeseen challenges. Being prepared ensures you can handle winter emergencies with confidence and peace of mind.

Home winter emergency kit should include:

- non-perishable food and water
- keep heating fuel full
- have emergency heat source
- flashlights and extra batteries
- blankets
- first aid supplies
- battery-powered weather radio to receive emergency information



Vehicle winter emergency kit should include:

- mittens, hat, boots, warm clothes
- flashlight and extra batteries
- jumper cables
- cell phone with charger
- water
- sleeping bag or blankets
- candle and matches
- high-calorie, non-perishable food



WINTER ACTIVITIES

Ice fishing, skiing, hiking, and snowmobiling are a few popular ways to enjoy the winter season's beauty and excitement. These activities offer adventure and fun, but safety is key. Wearing layered, insulated clothing, using appropriate gear, and staying informed about weather conditions are essential safety measures. Keeping equipment in good condition and staying aware of ice thickness, slopes, and trail conditions are crucial for a safe and enjoyable winter experience.

ICE FISHING SAFETY

Ice fishing is a winter activity where anglers drill holes in frozen lakes to catch fish. It requires specialized gear and safety precautions, like checking ice thickness and dressing warmly, for a safe and enjoyable experience. Keep these important safety tips in mind:

- ICE CONDITIONS
 - Before going ice fishing, ensure the ice is at least 4 inches thick to support foot traffic safely.
 - Look for clear ice, which is usually stronger than ice with snow or bubbles.
 - Avoid areas with inlets, outlets, or narrow channels that may have water current. Also avoid pressure ridges and large cracks.
- SAFETY PLAN
 - Let someone know where you're going and when you'll return.
 - Fish with a partner or in an area with other people.
 - Check the weather.
 - Look for signs that others have been out on the ice.
- WHAT TO DO IF YOU FALL IN
 - Stay calm.
 - Slip off loose boots.
 - Use ice awls to pull yourself out.
 - If you can't use ice awls, try to "swim out" by crawling out onto firm ice.
 - Keep your clothes on to stay insulated.



**ICE IS
NEVER
100%
SAFE**

SKIING AND SNOWBOARDING SAFETY TIPS

Skiing and snowboarding offer an exhilarating way to enjoy the winter season, combining speed, skill, and breathtaking sceneries. Whether carving down groomed slopes or tackling fresh powder, these sports provide an exciting challenge for all skill levels. Here are some key safety precautions to follow:

- RECOMMENDED EQUIPMENT
 - Helmet designed for skiing and snowboarding.
 - Goggles that fit over a helmet.
 - Properly fitted boots and bindings.
 - Wrist guards for snowboarders
 - Ski or snowboard pants or bibs
 - Ski or snowboard jacket
 - Ski or snowboard socks
 - Gloves or mittens
 - Neck gaiter
 - Elbow pads



WINTER ACTIVITIES

Riding the chairlift can be one of the best parts of the day, offering stunning views, a chance to rest your legs, and time to catch up with friends. However, it's essential to know how to safely load, ride, and unload all types of lifts, including chairlifts, rope tows, and conveyor carpets. Understanding proper lift use ensures a safer and more enjoyable experience on the slopes.

- **TIPS FOR RIDING LIFTS SAFELY**

- Know the type of lift you are using and the terrain it leads to.
- Stay focused in the lift line—avoid distractions like using your phone.
- Before loading, remove backpacks and pole straps from your wrists, and secure any loose items.
- Ensure everyone in your group is ready before stepping forward to load the chair.
- Watch over your shoulder as the chair approaches.
- Sit all the way back against the seat for stability.
- If the lift has a restraint bar, wait until everyone is seated before slowly lowering it.
- Stay aware of your surroundings while riding, and if you drop something, let it fall.

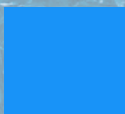


trail signage

The colored symbols next to the trails are essential for making the most of your time on the slopes. Their shape and color indicate the trail's level of difficulty, helping you choose the right path for your skill level.



BEGINNER
(easier)



INTERMEDIATE
(more difficult)



EXPERT
(most difficult)



EXPERT ONLY
(most difficult - use caution)



TERRAIN PARK
(freestyle terrain)

responsibility code

The skiing and snowboarding responsibility code is a set of guidelines designed to ensure the safety of all riders. It emphasizes staying in control, avoiding collisions, and following posted signs and warnings to create a safer experience.

- Always stay in control. You must be able to stop or avoid people or objects.
- People ahead or downhill of you have the right-of-way. You must avoid them.
- Stop only where you are visible from above and do not restrict traffic.
- Look uphill and avoid others before starting downhill or entering a trail.
- You must prevent runaway equipment.
- Read and obey all signs, warnings, and hazards markings.
- Keep off closed trails and out of closed areas.
- You must know how and be able to load, ride and unload lifts safely. If you need assistance, ask the lift attendant.
- Do not use lifts or terrain when impaired by alcohol or drugs.
- If you are involved in a collision or incident, share your contact information with each other and a ski area employee.

WINTER ACTIVITIES

SNOWMOBILE SAFETY

Snowmobiling is an exciting winter activity that combines speed and adventure as riders explore snowy trails and open landscapes. It requires a reliable snowmobile, proper safety gear, and knowledge of trail conditions. Riders should follow local regulations, stay on designated paths, and remain mindful of weather changes to ensure a safe and enjoyable experience. Below are some fundamental safety guidelines:



- **Slow down:** Speeding is a leading cause of snowmobile accidents, especially at night. Try to keep your speed under 40 miles per hour at night.
- **Stay to the right:** Stay to the right of the trail, especially on hills and corners.
- **Stay on the trail:** Stay on designated snowmobile trails and only ride private property with permission.
- **Avoid ice:** If you must drive on ice, wear a buoyant suit and drive on hard, clear ice. Avoid unfamiliar frozen lakes and rivers.
- **Ride with a partner:** Never snowmobile alone.
- **Check your lights:** Make sure your lights are clean, working properly, and free of snow.
- **Look ahead:** Plan your route ahead of time and look ahead.
- **Learn hand signals:** Learn hand signals to communicate with other riders.
- **Obey trail signs:** Obey all trail signs and cross roadways with caution.
- **Be prepared:** Always be prepared for the worst because snowmobiling can take you a far distance quickly.

WINTER HIKING TIPS

Winter hiking offers a unique and breathtaking experience, with snow-covered trails, frozen waterfalls, and serene, frosty landscapes. Hikers should dress in warm layers, wear sturdy boots with good traction, and be prepared for changing weather conditions. Despite the cold, the crisp air and sparkling scenery create a magical winter hiking experience for outdoor enthusiasts. Consider these basic safety tips:

- **PLAN AHEAD**
 - Check the weather forecast before, on the morning of, and just before your hike.
 - Use a map and compass to plan your route, including distance and elevation.
 - Let a friend or family member know where you are going, when you'll return, and the approximate location.
- **DRESS IN LAYERS**
 - Wear a base layer that wicks away sweat, an insulating mid-layer, and a waterproof or water-resistant outer layer.
 - Wear thick socks, winter hat, gloves or mittens and waterproof, insulated boots.
 - If there's more than 8 inches of snow, bring snowshoes or skis.
- **STAY HYDRATED**
 - Bring plenty of water, and consider adding electrolyte tablets.
 - Bring a thermos of hot drink or broth.
- **BE AWARE OF ENVIRONMENTAL HAZARDS**
 - Be aware of severe storms and other environmental hazards.
 - Stick to your planned route.



CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY COMMISSION FIRE SAFETY RECALLS

www.cpsc.gov ♦ 800.638.8270

DULUTH TRADING COMPANY CHILDREN'S HOLIDAY PAJAMA SETS

Recall Due to Burn Hazard

HAZARD

The recalled children's pajamas violate the flammability regulations for children's sleepwear, posing a risk of burn hazards.

REMEDY

Consumers should immediately take the pajamas away from children and stop using them. Contact Duluth Trading for a full refund.



UNITS
22,400

More information, click [RECALL](#)

VORNADO AIR VH2 WHOLE ROOM HEATERS

Recall Due to Electric Shock and Fire Hazards

Sold exclusively on Amazon.com

HAZARD

The power cord can partially detach from the heater enclosure, which can lead to cord damage over time, posing electric shock and fire hazards.

REMEDY

Contact Vornado to confirm that their product is part of the recall and receive instructions on how to get a free replacement heater.

UNITS 7,780



Additional information, click [RECALL](#)

LEXMARK INTERNATIONAL SPECIALTY PRINTERS

Recall Due to Fire Hazards

HAZARD

A metal part inside the printer can dislodge, posing a fire hazard.



REMEDY **UNITS**
Free Repair Part 43,510

Additional information, click [RECALL](#)

THREE61 SAMURAI MINI SMOKE ALARMS

Recall Due to Failure to Alert Consumers to a Fire

Sold exclusively by HSN

HAZARD

The smoke alarms can malfunction and fail to alert consumers of a fire, posing a risk of smoke inhalation or death.



REMEDY **UNITS**
Replacement 328,000

More information,
click [RECALL](#)

JOHN DEERE ZTRAK ZERO TURN MOWERS WITH KAWASAKI ENGINES

Recall Due to Fire and Burn Hazards

HAZARD

The voltage regulator in the mower's engine can fail during use or while being stored, causing the engine to overheat, posing fire and burn hazards.

REMEDY

Consumers should immediately stop using the mower and contact an authorize John Deere dealer for a free repair.

UNITS
39,000



Additional
information,
click [RECALL](#)