

## **Texting Templates (Plain Text Version): Winter Weather Safety**

This document outlines essential messages community leaders can share with their networks before, during or after a public health emergency. It is designed for partners to quickly copy and paste messaging into text threads or to quickly translate. Thank you for helping to keep your community safer!

### **Pre-Event: BE PREPARED**

Winter weather events may include heavy snow, icy streets or sidewalks, wind chills, or freezing rain. This weather can cause frostbite and hypothermia, in addition to other conditions. Dress in layers if going outside—hats, scarves, and water repellent coats are key. Babies and children lose body heat faster than adults so be sure they are bundled up.

**(58 words)**

Winter weather may interrupt utilities, such as energy and water, in the home. Pipes may burst or freeze if temperatures are very low, and high wind gusts may cause power outages in the home as well. Have an emergency kit stocked and prepared. Pack a first aid kit, food, water, medication for several days, and a charged flashlight with batteries. Learn more about how to [make a go bag](#) or [a shelter-in-place kit](#) before the next weather event.

**(78 words)**

Equip your house for winter weather. Check that smoke alarms and carbon monoxide detectors are properly installed and keep extra batteries on hand. Have an emergency kit stocked and prepared for your car as well and include jumper cables, a flashlight, blanket, bottled water, and non-perishable snacks. Prepare enough supplies for every member of your household, including pets, by [making a go bag](#) or [a shelter-in-place kit](#).

**(67 words)**

Stay informed during winter weather events by signing up for [ReadyPhiladelphia](#) and follow PDPH and OEM on social media. The City will provide updates on conditions and guidance to keep residents safe. Sign up or text READYPHILA to 888-777 in order to stay informed.

**(44 words)**

### **During Event: BE AWARE**

Keep objects that could catch fire at least 3 feet away from a heat source. Plug ONLY ONE heat-producing appliance, like a space heater, into an electrical outlet at a time and NEVER plug a space heater into an extension cord. Turn off all heating equipment before leaving a room or going to sleep.

**(54 words)**

Avoid using an oven or stove burners to heat your home. These items do not heat large spaces well and can lead to carbon monoxide poisoning.

**(26 words)**

Unheated areas in the home could lead to frozen pipes. To avoid this, shut off outside water faucets from the inside valves, keep the area around your water meter above 40 degrees Fahrenheit, and let tap water run slowly overnight in extremely cold weather (below 25 degrees Fahrenheit).

**(48 words)**

If driving, try to wait until road crews have cleared roadways and allow for extra travel time to proceed carefully.

**(20 words)**

Be sure that brakes, battery, hoses, and belts are in good condition. Vehicles should be regularly checked to make sure that fluid levels are full, wiper blades do not streak, heater and defroster work properly, radio functions, tires are properly inflated with good tread, and that all lights are working.

**(50 words)**

**During Event: BE AWARE (Population at Greatest Risk)**

OHS may declare a Code Blue which means additional services become available for those experiencing homelessness. City-funded shelters offer the option to stay indoors during the day as well as additional shelter beds when possible. Outreach teams locate and provide transportation to safe indoor spaces.

**(45 words)**

If you are worried about someone on the street at any time, please call the City's homeless outreach hotline at (215) 232-1984. Be prepared to share the person's location. If someone needs urgent medical attention, dial 9-1-1.

**(37 words)**

**Post-Event: STAY SAFE**

Limit your time outside. If you need to go outside, wear layers of warm clothing. Watch for signs of frostbite and hypothermia.

**(22 words)**

Reduce the risk of a heart attack by avoiding overexertion when shoveling or walking in the snow.

**(17 words)**