



Winter Weather Preparedness Guide for Kiawah Island Residents

WHY IT MATTERS

While Kiawah Island typically experiences mild winters, occasional cold snaps, ice storms, or power outages can pose serious risks - *especially on a barrier island where access and services may be limited*. The town is prepared to respond to winter weather but needs everyone to be their own emergency manager by preparing their home and family for winter *before* it comes.

Governor Henry McMaster proclaimed November 30 through December 6 as Winter Weather Preparedness Week in South Carolina. Below is a quick guide to assist you with your preparations.

HOME PREPARATIONS

Planning ahead is key to protecting your home and your loved ones.

- Insulate pipes to prevent freezing.
- Seal windows and doors.
- Trim tree limbs near your home.
- Check your roof and clean gutters.

EMERGENCY SUPPLIES CHECKLIST

Cell service may be down in a disaster. Plan ahead:

- Flashlights and extra batteries
- Portable phone chargers
- Bottled water
- Non-perishable food
- Blankets and warm clothing
- First-aid kit
- Battery-powered NOAA weather radio
- Manual can opener
- Fire extinguisher
- Portable phone chargers

✓ USING A GAS FIREPLACE SAFELY | IF YOU SMELL GAS, EVACUATE AND CALL 911

1. Check the venting system.
 2. Open the fireplace glass door slightly.
 3. Turn the gas valve to 'pilot' and press ignition.
 4. Once lit, turn the valve to ON.
 5. Adjust flame height.
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CARBON MONOXIDE (CO) SAFETY

- Install CO detectors on every level.
- Test detectors monthly and replace batteries every 6 months.
- Replace detectors every 5-7 years.
- Never use outdoor grills, generators, or propane heaters indoors.
- If unsure, notify Saint John's Fire Department for a safety check.**

VEHICLE PREPAREDNESS

- Keep your gas tank at least half full.
- Store an emergency kit in your car.
- Avoid driving during icy conditions.

STAY INFORMED

- Sign up for Charleston County Emergency alerts.
- Follow Kiawah Island Town Hall and Charleston County Emergency Management.
- Monitor NOAA Weather Radio or local news.

CHECK ON NEIGHBORS

A quick check-in on the elderly or those with limited mobility can make a big difference.

PET SAFETY TIPS FOR WINTER

- Bring pets indoors during freezing temperatures.
- Limit outdoor time.
- Wipe paws after walks.
- Provide warm bedding off the floor.
- Never leave pets in cars during cold weather.
- Ensure ID tags and microchips are up to date.

IMPORTANT RESOURCES DURING A WEATHER EVENT

Saint Johns Fire Department | 843.559.9194

Charleston County Emergency Management | 843.746.3800

National Weather Service | www.weather.gov