



## ***Winter is Coming – Get Ready Now***

Winter Preparedness Week is Dec. 1-7, 2013

Several record-breaking snowstorms have covered Virginia in recent years, and winter is right around the corner again! Winter Preparedness Week is Dec. 1-7 – this is the time for Virginians to get ready for bad weather by taking a few easy steps.

- ***Get a kit.*** Imagine that you can't leave your home for three days. You need these basic emergency supplies:
  - ✓ Three days' food that doesn't need refrigeration or electricity to prepare it
  - ✓ Three days' water (a gallon per person per day)
  - ✓ A battery-powered and/or hand-crank radio with extra batteries
  - ✓ After you have these essentials, then add a first aid kit, supply of prescription medications, blankets and warm clothing, supplies for special members of your household, and pet items.
- ***Make a plan.*** Everyone needs an emergency plan:
  - ✓ Decide who your out-of-town emergency contact will be
  - ✓ Where will you meet up with family members if you can't return home?
  - ✓ Get a worksheet at [www.ReadyVirginia.gov](http://www.ReadyVirginia.gov) or on the new Ready Virginia app
- ***Stay informed.*** Before, during and after a winter storm, you should:
  - ✓ Listen to local media for information and instructions from emergency officials
  - ✓ Be aware of winter storm watches and warnings and road conditions
  - ✓ Get road condition information 24/7 by calling 511 or checking [www.511Virginia.org](http://www.511Virginia.org)
- ***Download the Ready Virginia app.*** This helpful emergency planning tool for iPhone® and Android™ mobile devices features:
  - ✓ Location-specific weather watches and warnings issued by the National Weather Service
  - ✓ Disaster news from the Virginia Department of Emergency Management
  - ✓ A customizable family emergency plan that can be easily shared
  - ✓ A checklist for gathering emergency supplies
  - ✓ Contact information for local emergency managers
  - ✓ Links to register for local emergency alerts, and more

It's time to get ready for winter weather now! Get more information at [www.ReadyVirginia.gov](http://www.ReadyVirginia.gov).

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