

Winter Storm Safety & Wandering Preparedness Guide

IN THE EVENT OF AN EMERGENCY- CALL 911

Basic Winter Prep

- Have 3 to 7 days of medications, food, and water.
- Ensure devices are fully charged and have extra batteries.
- Review emergency plans with family/caregivers.
- If away from home, have a safe place to meet up.
- Have a plan to safely clear snow or ice after the storm.



Wandering Prevention (for individuals with autism or at risk of wandering)

- Keep recent photos available.
- Inform trusted neighbors or community partners.
- Have a “go-bag” with sensory items, ID, and emergency contacts.
- If wandering occurs, monitor all water sources continuously until the person is found.



Communication & Alerts

- Set up emergency alerts in advance.
- Inform first responders of wandering risks if applicable.
- Use a buddy system for check-ins before and after storms.
- If you have a Smart 911 profile, ensure it's up-to-date and active (Visit smart911.com for more information or to create a profile). Note: Smart 911 may not be available in all counties.



Safe Environment

- Secure doors and pathways for safety.
- Ensure a calm and familiar space.
- If a loved one is in a residential/group home, confirm plans with the provider.
- If you have a supports coordinator or additional needs, contact them.
- Inform local first responders and county emergency management if your household has additional support needs



Stay safe—your community is here for you! For more guidance, go to <https://www.pa.gov/agencies/pema> or <https://www.weather.gov/stormready/>