

Office of the Sheriff

Winnebago County



Gary Caruana
Sheriff



650 West State Street
Rockford, Illinois 61102
815-319-6000

With the dangerously cold temperatures that are expected this week, Sheriff Gary Caruana and the Winnebago County Sheriff's Office would like to provide you with some helpful reminders to keep you safe.

- **Limit your time outdoors as much as possible.** If you have to go outside, make sure to dress warmly in layers and wear hats, gloves and warm boots or shoes.
- **Make sure to have enough food and supplies in your home so you can stay nourished and hydrated.**
- **Space heaters are a way to add extra heat to colder rooms, but always remember to keep anything flammable at least three feet away from the heater at all times.** Flammable items include clothing, rugs, bedding and curtains. Also, remember to place the heater on a hard, non-flammable, stable surface and to turn it off completely before leaving the house. Set a reminder on your phone if you are afraid you will forget.
- **If you have to leave home be very careful driving.** Never warm up a vehicle in an enclosed area, such as a garage. Make certain your tires are properly inflated. Keep your gas tank at least half-full to avoid gas line freeze-up. Pack a cell phone plus blankets, gloves, hats, food, water and any needed medication in your vehicle if you are planning an extended trip. If you become stuck in the snow, stay with your vehicle. It provides temporary shelter and makes it easier for rescuers to locate you.
- **Remember, if it is too cold for you, it is probably too cold for your pet, so keep your animals inside.** If left outdoors, pets can freeze, become disoriented, lost, stolen, injured or killed. In addition, do not leave pets alone in a car during cold weather, as cars can act as refrigerators that hold in the cold and cause animals to freeze to death.

For additional helpful information on preparing for cold weather and winter storms, please visit the Center for Disease Control and Prevention website at:

<https://www.cdc.gov/disasters/winter/index.html>

295th Nationally Accredited



Law Enforcement Agency