

Be Prepared for the Cold Weather

Remembering how to plan is easy. Use the acronym: ICE PLAN

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IDENTIFY AREAS OF YOUR FACILITY THAT ARE SUBJECT TO LOWER THAN NORMAL TEMPERATURES. Install thermometers in these areas and establish an inspection program to detect freeze conditions. Adding building temperature supervision to a central station monitoring service can be a cost effective tool.

CHECK BUILDING SHELL FOR TIGHTNESS. Pay particular attention to windows, loading dock doors and any louvered openings. Seal or weather-strip all openings that can cause heat loss.

EXAMINE ALL HEATING DEVICES, BOILERS, SPACE HEATERS AND FURNACES. Are they in good condition and ready for service? Are fuel supplies adequate? Have backup fuel supplies been identified and arranged? If your system is not designed to cope with an arctic blast, plan to obtain additional heating equipment. If using temporary heaters, identify safe locations away from combustibles.

PLAN THE SNOW REMOVAL PROCESS. Maintain fire lanes, access to sprinkler control valves, fire hydrants and emergency access lanes. Plan for routine inspection of roofs and overhangs to prevent collapse from snow and ice. Have supplies and equipment for snow removal serviced, restocked or repaired prior to severe weather.

LOCATE ALL SHUT-OFF VALVES FOR DOMESTIC WATER SYSTEM. Identify valves isolating exterior faucets, lawn sprinklers or other exposed piping that will freeze and cause damage. Conduct training sessions for all staff to immediately locate and isolate these systems during an emergency.

ADMINISTER A COMPREHENSIVE EMERGENCY PLAN FOR ARCTIC WEATHER. This should include around the clock building monitoring, placing additional heating equipment in service, isolating freeze prone systems and monitoring snow buildup on roofs and overhangs. Routine draining of dry pipe sprinkler low points should also be included.

NOTIFY YOUR PLANT EMERGENCY TEAM OF THE ACTIONS TO BE TAKEN DURING EXTREME WEATHER. Designate someone to be responsible for weather monitoring and alerting the staff to implement specific action plans. Have emergency contact lists updated so plant staff can respond quickly to prepare for a storm or conduct salvage operations at the time of loss.

Having a plan and identifying the proper actions to take can prevent a devastating loss.

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Contact your FCCI Risk Control representative
for more winter weather tips.