

# Campus Safety Bulletin

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## IN THIS ISSUE: WINTER SEASON COMMON HAZARDS



**CAMPUS  
EMERGENCIES  
CALL "2911"  
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Each year, dozens of Americans die during the winter season due to exposure to cold. When you also factor in vehicle accidents, fires due to dangerous use of heaters, and other winter weather related incidents, the rate increases significantly. This winter consider these recommendations to help avoid the common seasonal hazards.

### Extended Exposure to Cold

Cold temperatures can cause hazardous conditions and hidden problems during a major winter storm. These storms can last for several days and be accompanied by high winds, freezing rain or sleet, heavy snowfall and cold temperatures.

- People can become trapped at home or in a car without utilities or other assistance.
- Attempting to walk for help in a winter storm can be a deadly decision.
- The aftermath of a winter storm can have an impact on the campus community for days, weeks or even months.
- Hypothermia and frostbite can lead to loss of fingers and toes or cause permanent injury to major organs, and even death. You must prepare properly to avoid these extreme dangers. You also need to know what to do if you see symptoms of these threats.

### Space Heaters

Electric space heaters are commonly used during winter and, when used properly, they can provide an additional degree of comfort over and above a facility's heating system. Unfortunately, with the use of these heaters comes the increased risk of fire and potential injury. To minimize such risks portable space heaters:

- should not have worn or damaged electrical cords.
- should be plugged directly into an electrical outlet rather than an extension cord.
- should be turned off and unplugged when not in use and at the end of each business day.
- should be placed a minimum of three (3) feet from any combustible material (e.g. curtains, paper, cloth, etc.) and in a well-ventilated area.
  - Space heaters fueled by kerosene or that produce open flames should not be used.
- should not be used for permanent heating.
- should not be placed underneath desks, in any means of egress (exit path), or any high traffic area.

### Driving in Winter Weather Conditions

You can find several tips intended to help you maintain better control while driving in winter conditions. However, you should factor in with these tips the driver, vehicle and extent of hazardous conditions. Some common tips include:

- First and foremost, slow down and relax. You want to do everything more slowly and more lightly than normal, including speed, hitting your gas pedal, clamping your breaks, or cranking your wheel too quickly.
- If you start sliding, turn slightly into the skid and pump your breaks. Yanking the wheel in the other direction and locking the brakes will stop your tires from turning, but you'll lose all hope of regaining traction with the road surface.
- Know when to quit. Sometimes road conditions are simply too dangerous to drive in. If you can't see or you keep losing control, pull over. Never push your luck if you're unsure. It's not worth it to drive if you're jeopardizing yourself, your passengers or other drivers on the road.

**Exercise Safety this Winter Season.**