

# WINTER WEATHER PREPAREDNESS CHECK LIST

**CHIEF RICKY JORDAN**

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- Gather supplies before the weather hits. Have a 72-hour supply of food and water stocked in your home, but a week's supply is recommended. Make sure to have your prescriptions filled as well as a good supply of over-the-counter meds and first-aid provisions.
- Protect your pipes from freezing by allowing them to drip continuously until the weather warms up.
- Backup power and heat are recommended. This could mean a backup generator or alternative heat source, such as a fireplace, that can be used if the power fails.
- If you have a wood fireplace, stock up on wood as soon as possible, and use fireplace safety best practices.
- If you use a space heater, be sure to keep it at least three feet away from furniture and drapes. Electric space heaters with automatic shut-off switches and non-glowing elements are the safest.
- In the event of a power outage, please call Amicalola Power at 706-253-0359.
- Have multiple flashlights ready, which you should also test out. If you use candlelight, watch the flame carefully to avoid a surprise fire.
- Avoid traveling as much as possible, even when roads appear clear. Black ice, especially on our hills, is a nearly invisible and highly dangerous hazard.
- If you see Public Safety vehicles traveling with ease, it's likely because we have installed heavy-duty tire chains or are in a track-equipped vehicle. Do not try to follow a Public Safety vehicle unless you are told to do so.
- Consider stocking up on foods that do not require cooking.
- Be sure to have a manual can opener on hand.
- If you must travel, a good idea is to have a cell phone charger that you keep fully charged, boots for cold and wet weather, snacks, food, water, and blankets in your vehicle in case you become stranded.

- When driving through Big Canoe, be aware that our rapid elevation changes mean that some areas in Big Canoe are colder than others. While it may be raining at the North Gate, it could be snowing on Cox Mountain Drive.
- If you are stranded in our community, try to find a nearby home to stay in while you wait for help. Public Safety will attempt to access anyone stuck in a bad place, but they can't guarantee a quick arrival if the conditions are an issue.
- Please be patient! Big Canoe has a large fleet of road-clearing equipment to make roads passable as quickly as possible; however, due to our elevation and temperatures, if the roads are plowed and cleared too soon, an icy film will freeze, resulting in black ice.