Are you *Ready*NC? … for Old Man Winter

North Carolina's proximity to the Appalachian Mountains, Atlantic Ocean and Gulf Stream make winter weather unpredictable. Typically, there are 6 to 12 winter storms (with measurable snow, sleet, freezing rain or cold rain) each year in the central part of the state. The coastal regions usually have less than 4 events per year, while the mountains and foothills have # of winter storms annually.

Know the Terms

Planning ahead helps to keep your family safe. Know the terms, so you know what to expect and what to do.

- **Watch: severe winter conditions *could* occur but don't know when.**
- **Warning: 4+ inches of snow or sleet is expected within 12 hours. Be prepared for possible power outages or roads made impassable by snow or ice.**
- **Advisories: winter weather conditions are expected to cause delays and problems.**

Be Prepared! Follow These Winter Safety Tips

- Keep alternative heating sources prepared. Keep fire extinguishers on hand. Be sure your family knows how to use them.
- Use a National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration weather radio. Monitor it for changing weather conditions.
- Dress warmly. Wear multiple layers of thin clothing instead of a single layer of thick clothing to stay warm. Wear hats, gloves, scarves and heavy coats.
- Properly vent kerosene heaters and keep any electric generators OUTSIDE and away from any open windows or doors to prevent carbon monoxide poisoning. Do not burn charcoal indoors.
- Keep fresh batteries on hand to use with flashlights and weather radios.
- Always keep at least a three-day supply of non-perishable food in your home.

Drive Safely

- If you must travel during a winter storm, keep an emergency kit in your vehicle.
- If driving on snow- or ice-covered roadways, reduce your speed. Leave plenty of room between you and other vehicles.
- If conditions worsen and you can no longer drive safely, pull off t he highway.
    - Stay calm and remain in your vehicle.
    - Do not set out on foot unless you can see a building close by where you know you can take shelter.