



PLEASE NO UPHOLSTERED FURNITURE, TIRES, WINDOWS, DOORS, ELECTRONICS, PORCELAIN FIXTURES.

The Swap Shop will be open on Saturday, September 12, from 8 AM to noon and welcomes (before noon) reusable items in working condition like toys, clothing, books, bicycles, and kitchenware. Please, **no** upholstered furniture, tires, windows, doors, electronics, or porcelain fixtures.

It's Time To Check Your Heating System

Andover Fire Chief Rene Lefebvre urges everyone to heed this advice!

Heating season will soon be here. This is the time to check your heating systems. Having your heating system checked by a qualified professional will help ensure that the system is ready to operate safely and efficiently.

Heating unit fires are still the number one cause of fires in New Hampshire, and they are preventable. Heating fires are often the result of improper installation, use, or maintenance of supplemental home heating appliances such as wood stoves, coal stoves, and kerosene space heaters. The use of these supplemental heat-

ing devices also increases the risk of dangerous accumulation of carbon monoxide in the home if not properly installed and maintained. Now is the time to have them checked.

It is critical that every home has interconnected smoke alarms on each floor level and that every family should develop and practice a home fire escape plan. Smoke alarms should be tested monthly. Matches and lighters should be kept out of the reach of children at all times.

For further information concerning home fire safety, contact your local fire department or the office of the State Fire Marshal at 271-3294. 

Andover Fire Department, September 2015

Prepare now for the next big storm

Rene Lefebvre, AFD Chief

We seem to live in a sheltered location, at least where the weather is concerned. The states to our south and west seem to get battered by Mother Nature often.

While I am not the kind of person to tempt fate, the law of averages is not on our side. Someday all the conditions will be just right, and we will be faced with a bad storm.

I do not believe in worrying about things like storms; worrying is a waste of good energy. Our time is much better spent in preparing for storms.

We should prepare for a storm that takes away power and outside communication. Emergency services will be available, but they may be delayed responding to your location. This would be the kind of storm where sheltering in place may be best.

Now, think about what you would lose without electrical power, water from your well, and energy to operate the refrigerator or freezer. Would your stove or heating appliance operate? Is the sump pump needed? There are too many possibilities to cover in this article, but write down the items you would lose on one side of a sheet of paper. Now, start to plan how you would

overcome or compensate for each loss.

Remember, not every convenience is key to weathering a storm. Prioritize your needs. Food, water, and heat are the big ones. Next are medications and prescriptions. You should have several days' supply on hand if bad weather is predicted.

A portable generator solves many concerns; they can power your well pump, operate your refrigerator, and charge your cell phone. The generator must be maintained and can be expensive, so they are not for everyone.

Consider a storm box: a large, plastic container in which you should store flashlights, fresh batteries, a case of bottled water, canned, easy-to-cook food, and food for your pets. Consider a first aid kit, several cans of sterno fuel, candles, and wooden matches. Games and books will be welcome to help pass time.

You will likely have what you need in your home most of the time, however your supplies change every day; your storm box will not. Preparing for a storm should be a family activity where everyone can help and be involved.

I may have raised more questions than answers; if so, please contact us or visit Ready.gov. We can't control the weather, but with a little planning we will meet Mother Nature on her terms and be just fine. 

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