



Winter Weather 101: Know Your Snow Stuff

Snow Emergency Levels Explained

Under Ohio Law, the Hamilton County sheriff has the responsibility to monitor snow conditions and to declare a "Snow Emergency" when it has been determined that use of highways/roadways by motorists is a threat to maintaining the public peace.

Snow Alert Level One

Roadways are hazardous with blowing and drifting snow. Roads may also be icy. Motorists are urged to drive very cautiously. No roadways are closed but unnecessary travel is discouraged.

Snow Advisory Level Two

Roadways are hazardous with blowing and drifting snow. Roads may also be very icy. Only those who feel it is necessary to drive should be out on the roads. All employees should contact their employer to see if they should report to work.

Snow Emergency Level Three

Ice, blowing and drifting snow has created extremely hazardous road conditions. Low visibility, extremely low temperatures, and worsening road conditions have caused the closing of all or certain county roads to all but emergency and essential persons. No one should be on roadways unless absolutely necessary.

All employees should contact their employer to see if they should report to work. Those traveling on the roads may subject themselves to arrest.

Snow Removal a Team Effort Here

Did you know that not all Anderson roadways are maintained by Anderson Township?

- Anderson Township manages more than 120 miles of mainly subdivision streets,
- Hamilton County maintains 73 miles of through township roadways including Clough Pike, Salem Road, Eight Mile Road and more.
- The Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) is responsible for state or U.S. highways totaling 20 miles in Anderson, including S.R. 32 (Batavia Road), S.R. 125 (Beechmont Avenue), U.S. 52 and Interstate 275.

During the winter, ODOT contracts with the Hamilton County Engineer's Office to remove snow on Beechmont Avenue and Batavia Road.

Cul-de-sacs, Snow Removal and You

Anderson Township is home to more than 475 cul-de-sacs on its more than 120 miles of roadways. These cul-de-sacs present a number of challenges during snow removal efforts.

The township's road crew consists of just 10 plow drivers who work hard to keep our roads clean. In trying to clear the most snow as quickly as possible and to safeguard main roadways, hills and curves are cleared first and cul-de-sacs are passed by.

Under normal conditions, cul-de-sacs are not plowed until after a storm has passed. Crews return to the cul-de-sacs and try to avoid piling up snow in driveway areas, mailboxes and fire hydrants. Sometimes it is not possible to avoid creating a pile of snow. Your understanding is appreciated.

Please do not plow, shovel or blow snow into the roadway. These situations can impair safety for drivers and also hamper the township's road crew.

Don't Come Up Short in the Cold

Have you updated or created your own winter safety kit for your car and home? If not, now is a good time to get that chore off your list before the snow starts blowing.

Have these items on hand:

- Rock salt or other environmentally safe products to melt ice on walkways. The Environmental Protection Agency offers a list of recommended products.
- Sand to improve traction.
- Snow shovels and other snow removal equipment.
- Sufficient heating fuel and/or a good supply of dry, seasoned wood for your fireplace or wood-burning stove.
- Adequate clothing and blankets.
- Flashlights and batteries.
- Several days of necessary medications.

Learn more at hamiltoncountyohioema.org/assembling-an-emergency-supplies-kit.

Winter Storm Watch or Warning?

A **Winter Storm Watch** means be prepared. Winter Storm Watches are issued when conditions are favorable for a significant winter storm event (heavy sleet, heavy snow, ice storm, heavy snow and blowing snow or a combination of events.)

A **Winter Storm Warning** means take action. A Winter Storm Warning is issued for a significant winter weather event including snow, ice, sleet or blowing snow or a combination of these hazards. Travel will become difficult or impossible in some situations. Delay your travel plans until conditions improve.



Stay Out of Harm's Way This Winter

Tips for safety from Anderson Township Fire and Rescue Department



Candles

Three of every five candle fires start when a flammable object such as fabric, furniture or when bedding comes in contact with a candle.

Avoid the use of candles in the bedroom and other areas where people may fall asleep. Use candle holders that are sturdy and won't tip over easily.



Button Batteries

The small batteries, also called coin batteries, are getting more popular every year, particularly in toys. However, once swallowed by a curious toddler, the batteries can do serious internal damage. Be vigilant to make sure children do not have access to these batteries. They are also found in remote controls, greeting cards and hearing aids.



Smoke detectors

Make sure your smoke detectors are working. When there is a fire, smoke spreads fast. Having a working smoke alarm gives you early warning so you can get outside quickly.



Holiday Decorations

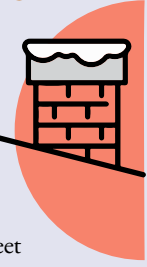
Many home fires associated with holiday decorations emerge from items too close to a heat source. A dry live Christmas tree is nothing but kindling when sparks fly.



Portable and space heaters

A variety of portable heaters are available for retail use and they come in a variety of fuels or heat sources. Make sure your heater carries a label that shows it is approved for your intended use.

Place heating devices at least three feet away from combustibles, including draperies, paper, furniture, bedding and clothing. Turn off space heaters when not home, and check for frays or hot spots on cords.



Chimney Fires

Anderson Township Fire and Rescue personnel make about a half dozen calls every year for chimney fires. Before you light your first indoor fire, have a chimney sweep come out and inspect and clean your chimney. A chimney fire can easily turn into a structure fire especially with an older chimney.