



WINTER 2025

Emergency Preparedness

www.myrtlebeachfire.com/emergency-preparedness

NEWSLETTER

RESOLVE TO BE READY

Prioritize Preparedness in 2025

Disasters can happen anytime, anywhere, but preparedness is key. As we begin a new year, prioritize preparedness. Establish a family emergency plan by formulating a communication strategy, ensuring that all family members know how to reach each other in the event of an emergency. Create a comprehensive emergency supply kit with essential items like food, water, medications, and first aid supplies. Identify safe locations for evacuation and practice drills so everyone knows what to do when disaster strikes. By taking these proactive steps, you can help protect your loved ones and stay resilient in the face of unexpected challenges. For a wealth of preparedness resources, visit ready.gov.



Though our area tends to enjoy more warm days than cold, we must prepare for the occasional winter weather.

Be mindful of extreme temperatures. Young children and the elderly are more vulnerable to the effects of cold weather. Take the time to ensure you are #WinterReady. Learn the signs of frostbite and hypothermia at cdc.gov/winter-weather/prevention.

Winterize Emergency Supplies

Now is the perfect time to check your emergency supply kit at home and ensure your vehicle is stocked with essential winter weather supplies. Make sure you have a phone charger, flashlight, extra batteries, jumper cables, and roadside flares or reflective triangles, along with items like rock salt or cat litter, extra blankets, and ice scrapers. Always communicate your travel plans. Check weather forecasts and road conditions before heading out. For real-time traffic updates, call 511 or visit 511sc.org.



WINTER SAFETY

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

Read the clues below and fill in the grid.

ACROSS

- To prevent pipes from bursting in freezing temps, allow faucets to _____
- A winter storm is occurring or will soon occur in your area.
- Shivering, confusion, slurred speech, and loss of coordination due to dangerously low body temperature.
- A substance that can be spread on walkways to melt ice & prevent slips.
- Prepare for temperature changes by dressing in _____

DOWN

- A type of rain that freezes when it hits the ground, creating a coating of ice on roads, walkways, trees & power lines.
- A common item in vehicles & emergency kits, used for warmth in cold conditions.
- A winter storm is possible in your area.
- Numbness, pale skin, & a feeling of cold or tingling in extremities, often leading to tissue damage.
- Rain that turns into ice pellets before reaching the ground.
- If you are cold, they are too. Bring them inside.

ANSWER KEY

1. Frostbite	6. Hypothermia
2. Drip	7. Sheet
3. Blanket	8. Hypothermia
4. Winter Storm	9. Salt
5. Winter Storm	10. Pets
11. Layers	Watch



Heating Your Home Safely

Heating equipment is responsible for an average of 48,000 home fires annually, resulting in approximately 500 deaths and 1,500 injuries each year. These fires are often caused by improper use of heating equipment, such as space heaters or chimneys, and typically occur during the winter months. Have chimneys professionally cleaned annually before use. Maintain a clear area of at least 3 feet around heaters whenever they are in use.

Proper installation of smoke alarms is essential to reduce the risk of house fires. For proper placement of smoke alarms in your home:

- Install smoke alarms on each level of your home.
- Place them inside and outside all sleeping areas.
- Use interconnected alarms, so if one goes off, all will sound to alert everyone in your house.
- Change the batteries twice a year, unless your alarms have a 10-year battery.
- Test alarms monthly to ensure they are working.
- Replace smoke alarms every 10 years.

For a comprehensive guide on safe home heating practices and fire escape planning for your family, download the U.S. Fire Administration’s brochure here: [Home Fire Safety Guide](#).



If you are cold, your pets are cold too! Keep them bundled up this winter.



Don't forget about us!

During extreme temperatures, it is crucial to monitor and limit your pets' time outdoors. When they are outside, ensure they have access to shelter, food, and water that has not frozen. Just like humans, small animals, puppies, kittens, and older pets—or pets with short coats or health conditions—are particularly vulnerable to the cold. Always provide them with a warm, dry space to retreat to and avoid prolonged exposure to freezing temperatures. Consider dressing them in weather-appropriate gear and check their paws for ice or irritating salt after outdoor time. Prioritizing cold weather safety will help protect your pets from the dangers of hypothermia and frostbite.

scemd.org/preparingpetsforemergencies

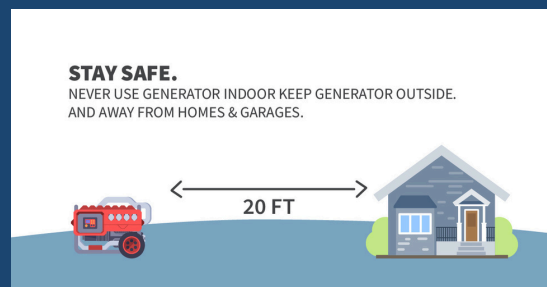
Power Outages During Cold Weather Emergencies

Power outages during emergencies, especially in cold weather, can pose serious challenges. It is important to properly report utility outages to your utility provider (not 911!) as soon as possible, so they can respond quickly. Familiarize yourself with the reporting options your service provider offers, such as by phone, online, or via an app.

To stay warm in cold temperatures, layer clothing, use blankets, and never use your stove or oven for heating purposes, as this can be very dangerous.

Be mindful of potential fire hazards when using candles or other open flames for light.

The risk of carbon monoxide poisoning is heightened when using alternative heating sources or generators. Always use generators outdoors, away from windows and doorways, and never run them inside of your home or garage.



Preparing in advance with extra blankets, battery-powered lights, and a fully charged phone can help you stay safe during these challenging times.

Stay Connected to Community

One of our most valuable resources is each other. During winter emergencies, especially, it is crucial to check on your neighbors, especially those who are elderly, disabled, or live alone, to ensure they are safe and have the resources they need.



To remain informed, follow reputable sources and have multiple ways to receive alerts.



CLICK OR SCAN TO SUBSCRIBE

to receive notifications issued by the City of Myrtle Beach.

MB Alerts



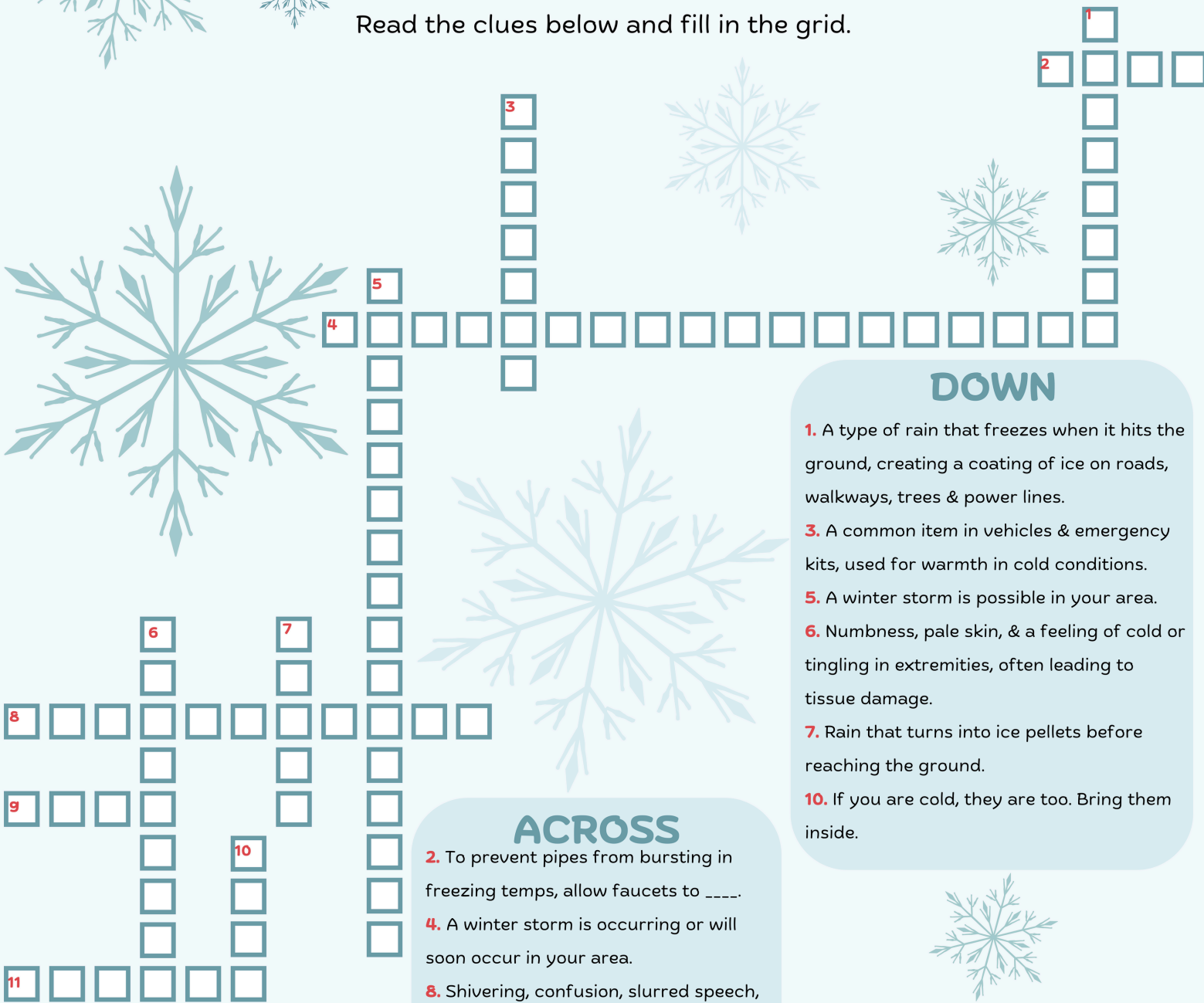
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ANSWER KEY

- | | | | | | |
|-------------|----------------|------------|-----------------|-----------------|--------------|
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| 7. Sleet | 8. Hypothermia | 9. Salt | 10. Pets | 11. Layers | Watch |