



**Northern
Maine
Development
Commission**



Public Service Announcement

Severe winter storms are the most frequent natural hazard event in Maine. Severe winter storms include snow and ice storms, heavy snowfall, ice storms, and freezing rain.

Know the Difference:

WINTER WEATHER ADVISORY: A winter storm is anticipated with accumulations of up to 4 inches.

WINTER STORM WATCH: A winter storm is expected within the next 36 to 48 hours with accumulations of over 4 inches and includes severe weather conditions.

WINTER STORM WARNING: A winter storm is occurring or about to occur. Same conditions as a winter storm watch. Stay inside!

BLIZZARD WARNING: Snow and strong winds will combine to produce a blinding snow (near zero visibility), deep drifts, and life-threatening wind chill. Seek refuge immediately!

Severe Winter Storms come in many forms. Sometimes they are accompanied by strong winds creating blizzard conditions with blinding wind-driven snow, severe drifting, and dangerous wind chill. Prolonged exposure to the cold can cause frostbite or hypothermia and become life-threatening.

Ice Storms are associated with heavy accumulations of ice, which can bring down trees, electrical wires, telephone poles and lines, and communication towers. Communications and power can be disrupted for days while utility companies work to repair the extensive damage.

Heavy snow storms can immobilize a region and paralyze a city, stranding commuters, stopping the flow of supplies, and disrupting emergency and medical services. Accumulations of snow can collapse buildings and knock down trees and power lines.

The cost of snow removal, repairing damages, and loss of business can have large economic impacts on cities and towns.