

Winter Weather Presents Different Challenges 11/20/20

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Most of us have experienced many winters in Indiana like climates and are familiar with the special challenges that cold weather can present to our families and communities. You might also ask what opportunities for service as COMM division members might arise.

As COMM and Warning division members our first concern is to be prepared for weather events that may shut down normal life by having emergency plans and supplies ready in case of severe cold, large snow events or ice storms. There is potential for closed roads, downed power lines and other interruptions of essential services which may threaten the well being of local residents. EMA members may be called upon to help establish communication and to provide necessary supplies to those in danger because of loss of their normal supply chain. In addition severe cold may result in the opening of warming centers. This is especially challenging if there is a loss of electricity that accompanies an event.

Thus, it is difficult to predict the exact nature of such emergencies, therefore COMM members need to be prepared to have their own homes and families protected in order to be available for offering service to others in the case of such emergencies.

The long range forecast for the US is reviewed in the following video clip:



In particular, our NWS forecasters in Indianapolis, have suggested that for Madison County and surrounding counties, a better than average probability exists for some severe ice storms. Of course, any long range forecasts have large uncertainties, but ice storms can easily cause many problems for our county.

In addition, I have included a link that provides lots of information on Winter Weather Preparedness. The chart below lists the topics covered and the web link is below:

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www.weather.gov/media/ind/2020_winternewsletter.pdf