



NORTHFIELD POLICE DEPARTMENT

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Press Release – Dangerously Cold Weather January 29, 2019

With existing and worsening cold weather conditions expected for the next several days, the Northfield Police Department is warning the community of the dangers of extreme cold. Record-breaking cold temperatures combined with high winds will create potentially life-threatening outdoor conditions for people and animals.

Real temperatures are expected to dip to the 20 – 30 degrees below zero range for the next several nights. Daytime high temperatures will stay well below zero as well. At the same time, winds are expected to reach up to 30 mph, creating wind chill factors in the 40, 50, or even 60 degrees below zero range. At these temperatures exposed flesh can freeze within minutes and frostbite can easily occur through clothing when the temp is this low. Your animals are also at extreme risk.

The Police Department offers the following tips:

- Limit or eliminate unnecessary travel.
- If you must travel:
 - o Ensure your vehicle is properly winterized, in good mechanical condition, and the gas tank is full.
 - o Have blankets, cellphone charger, and other emergency supplies in your vehicle.
 - o If your vehicle goes off the road, do not leave the vehicle unless absolutely necessary. Immediately call for help and make a plan that will get you to safety as soon as possible.
- Do not run vehicles or petroleum-fueled heaters inside garages or homes.
- Monitor children closely. Do not allow them outside for extended periods of time, make sure they are clothed appropriately, and supervise them directly while outside.
- Make sure your home heating system intake/exhaust is not blocked and make sure smoke and carbon monoxide detectors are working properly.
- Monitor weather conditions and forecasts.
- State statutes and common sense govern the humane treatment of animals in extreme weather. Dogs must be provided proper shelter, food, and water.
 - o Shelters must be properly insulated, at least 2” off the ground, and (between November 1 and March 31) must have a windbreak/covering the entrance.
 - o Snow and Ice are not considered proper water supply. Use a heated bowl.
 - o Make sure your dog receives extra food/calories during the cold weather.
 - o Consider bringing animals indoors during this extreme weather.

Please contact the Northfield Police Department with any questions at 507-645-4477