

Blizzard/Winterstorm

Before the storm arrives:

- Stock up on food, water, medication and other necessities.
- Have batteries and flashlights on hand in case you lose power during the storm.
- Check out the [Red Cross](#) website to learn about what types of items you should have on hand.

As you gather supplies be aware that you may need to find shelter if your living space is damaged, or if you lose electricity for an extended period of time.

Pay attention to weather alerts. Look for televised and electronic alerts issued by the [National Weather Service](#), and tune in to local news for updates.

During/Right After the Storm:

- Stay indoors. Avoid exposure to blizzard conditions.
- Do not drive if conditions are unsafe or if authorities have declared a travel ban due to the storm.
- If you do go outside, be careful on snowy or icy walkways.
- If you shovel out a car, fully clear the area in and around the tailpipe.
- Avoid overexertion when shoveling snow.
- Watch for signs of frostbite (loss of feeling and whiteness or paleness in fingers, toes, ear lobes, tip of the nose or other extremities). If symptoms are detected, get medical help immediately.
- Watch for signs of hypothermia (uncontrollable shivering, memory loss, disorientation, incoherence, slurred speech, drowsiness, apparent exhaustion).
- If symptoms of hypothermia are detected, get the victim to a warm location, remove any wet clothing, warm the center of the body and give the victim warm, non-alcoholic beverages if they are conscious. Get medical help as soon as possible.
- Never use any gasoline, propane, natural gas or charcoal-burning devices (generators, grills, stoves, etc.) inside enclosed areas.
- Install carbon monoxide alarms in central locations on every level of your home and outside of sleeping areas to provide early warnings of accumulating carbon monoxide.
- Use flashlights instead of candles if you lose electricity at night.

For more information on winter storm preparedness, please see the [American Red Cross](#) or [Ready.Gov](#) sites for more information.

Weather Alerts

The [Campus Closure Policy](#) dictates how the university will respond in the event of inclement weather.

If the university is closed due to a winter storm, the [UMass Boston Alert System](#) will notify all students and faculty via email. Those who have entered cell phone information into the system will receive text alerts. Everyone is encouraged to sign up for National Weather Service alerts as well.

The following are terms used by weather experts to describe predicted storms:

WINTER WEATHER ADVISORY

Winter Weather Advisories are issued when any of the following is expected within the next 12 to 24 hours:

- A winter weather event having more than one predominant hazard (i.e. snow and ice, snow and sleet, or snow, ice & sleet) meeting or exceeding advisory criteria for at least one of the precipitation elements, but remaining below warning criteria.
- Snow, Ocean Effect Snow, and/or Sleet.
- 3 inches averaged over a CT, MA, RI forecast zone in 12 hours.
- 4 inches averaged over a NH forecast zone in 12 hours.
- Snow and blowing snow
- Sustained or frequent gusts of 25 to 34 mph accompanied by falling and blowing snow, occasionally reducing visibility to less than 1/4 mi for more than 3 hours.
- Blowing snow
- Widespread or localized blowing snow reducing visibility to less than ¼ mi with winds faster than 35 mph.
- Black ice

WINTER STORM WARNING

Winter Storm Warnings are issued when any of the following is expected within the next 12 to 36 hours:

- A winter weather event having more than one predominant hazard, meeting or exceeding warning criteria for at least one of the precipitation elements.

Snow, ocean effect snow, or sleet.

- 6 inches averaged over a forecast zone in a 12 hour period.
- 8 inches averaged over a CT, MA, RI forecast zone in a 24 hour period.
- 9 inches averaged over a NH forecast zone in a 24 hour period.

BLIZZARD WARNING

Sustained winds or frequent gusts traveling faster than 35 mph. Considerable falling and/or blowing snow that frequently reduces visibility to less than ¼ mi for more than 3 hours. Blizzard conditions need to be predominant over a 3 hour period for this alert to be issued.

- [Campus Closure Policy](#)
- [National Weather Service Alerts](#)
- [How to Prepare for a Winter Storm](#)