

# THE 12-HOUR WINTER STORM READINESS AUDIT

Your 20-Minute Mission: Find & Fix Critical Gaps Before Impact

Winter Storm Fern is incoming. Use this checklist to stress-test your household's preparedness across 5 mission-critical systems. Check each box as you complete the audit.



## 🔥 HEAT SYSTEM AUDIT

**Mission: Verify backup heat is safe and operational**

- Test backup heaters/generators NOW (check fuel levels)
- Replace batteries in ALL CO detectors (critical during outages)
- Identify and close off unused rooms to concentrate heat
- Stage extra blankets, sleeping bags, and warm layers in central location
- Verify fireplace/wood stove is clean and ready (if applicable)

**DANGER ZONE:** Never run generators indoors or in attached garages. CO kills silently.

## 💧 WATER SYSTEM AUDIT

**Mission: Secure water supply and prevent pipe damage**

- Calculate need: 1 gallon per person per day × 7 days minimum
- Fill bathtub(s) with "flush water" for toilet use
- Open cabinet doors under sinks to allow warm air circulation
- Set faucets to slow drip (prevents pipe freeze-ups)
- Locate your main water shut-off valve (know how to turn it off)
- Fill pots, pitchers, or containers with drinking water

**PRO TIP:** If pipes freeze, never use open flame to thaw. Use hair dryer or heating pad.

## 📡 COMMUNICATION AUDIT

**Mission: Secure water supply and prevent pipe damage**

- Calculate need: 1 gallon per person per day × 7 days minimum
- Fill bathtub(s) with "flush water" for toilet use
- Open cabinet doors under sinks to allow warm air circulation
- Set faucets to slow drip (prevents pipe freeze-ups)
- Locate your main water shut-off valve (know how to turn it off)
- Fill pots, pitchers, or containers with drinking water

**PRO TIP:** If pipes freeze, never use open flame to thaw. Use hair dryer or heating pad.

## EMERGENCY NUMBERS (FILL IN NOW)

Local Emergency: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Power Company: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Out-of-State Contact: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Nearest Shelter: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Family Rally Point: \_\_\_\_\_

## 🚗 VEHICLE AUDIT

**Mission: Ensure mobility and prevent freeze damage**

- Fill gas tank to FULL (prevents fuel line freeze-ups)
- Check tire pressure (drops significantly in extreme cold)
- Pack trunk "Go-Bag": blankets, ice scraper, sand/kitty litter, shovel
- Add: flashlight, phone charger, energy bars, bottled water
- Verify windshield washer fluid is winter-rated (won't freeze)
- Test that vehicle starts and runs smoothly

**CRITICAL:** If stranded in vehicle, stay put. Run engine 10 min/hour for heat, crack window.

## 🍲 PANTRY & SUPPLIES AUDIT

**Mission: Verify 7-day autonomy if supply chains freeze**

- Stock 7 days of NO-COOK calories (peanut butter, nuts, canned goods, protein bars)
- Locate and TEST manual can opener (most people forget this)
- Verify 10-day supply of prescription medications
- Stock 10+ days of pet food and supplies
- Set aside baby formula, diapers, or special dietary needs
- Stage candles, matches, flashlights, and batteries in accessible location

**FOOD SAFETY:** If power fails, keep freezer/fridge closed. Food stays frozen 48hrs in full freezer.

## ⚡ BONUS: POWER FAILURE PREP (2 MINUTES)

- Know which neighbors are elderly or have medical needs
- Unplug sensitive electronics (surge protection)
- Fill thermoses with hot water/coffee before storm hits
- Gather family for 5-minute communication plan review

**AUDIT COMPLETE?** You've just hardened your household against Winter Storm Fern's worst-case scenarios. Now shelter in place and stay warm.

**Stay safe. Stay prepared.**  
 – SurvivalLife.com