Media Release
11/4/26

Kane County Health Department Helps Community Prepare for Winter Emergencies with Safety Tips and Free Community Webinar

November is Winter Weather Preparedness Month, and the Kane County Health Department (KCHD) is encouraging residents to take steps now to stay warm, safe and prepared for winter weather and emergencies.

Cold temperatures, snow and ice can create serious health and safety risks. Exposure to extreme cold can lead to hypothermia, a dangerous drop in body temperature, and frostbite, which occurs when skin and underlying tissues freeze. Older adults, young children, people experiencing homelessness and those who spend extended time outdoors may be especially vulnerable to extreme cold.

“Winter weather can create unexpected challenges, but a little preparation can go a long way toward keeping our families and communities safe,” said Michael Isaacson, KCHD Executive Director. “We encourage residents to take time now to make a plan, gather essential supplies and check on neighbors who may need extra support. Being prepared before severe weather strikes can make all the difference.”

KCHD recommends taking the following steps to prepare for winter:

1. Check home heating systems and make sure they are working safely.
2. Keep extra blankets, warm clothing, food, water and essential medications on hand.
3. Prepare a winter emergency kit for your vehicle, including blankets, a flashlight, water and other supplies.
4. Sign up for trusted weather alerts and emergency notifications.
5. Check on older adults, neighbors and others who may need assistance during extreme cold.

Know Where to Find a Warming Center

Residents who need a warm place to go during extreme cold can visit a warming center in Kane County. Locations include public libraries, police departments, senior centers and other community facilities. Some locations have limited hours, and temporary warming centers may open when temperatures reach certain thresholds. Residents should contact a facility before visiting to confirm availability and hours. Find locations and additional information on the Kane County Warming and Cooling Centers webpage.

Webinar: Learn How to Prepare for Winter Emergencies

KCHD will host a free webinar, *Winter Ready: Preparing for Cold Weather and Emergencies,* on Monday, November 30, from noon to 1 p.m. This presentation will cover practical steps residents can take to prepare for winter emergencies and protect themselves, their families and their communities. Participants will learn how to identify potential winter weather hazards, create a household emergency plan, assemble essential emergency supplies for the home and vehicle, and stay informed through trusted alerts and emergency communications. The webinar will also highlight simple ways to help neighbors and loved ones stay safe. Register here.

Residents can also access the Kane County Emergency Preparedness Toolkit for information and resources to help prepare for emergencies throughout the year.