



# Bear Valley Springs Mountain Winter-Ready Checklist

Helping you get ready for snow season and potential weather-related outages



Our winters are usually mild, but severe winter storms and blizzards do happen. Preparation will allow you to relax and enjoy whatever nature throws our way.

## August

- Have your septic tank inspected and pumped if necessary
- Have your propane tank topped up
- Do a final “weed abatement” clearing weeds and removing debris from within 30-50’ of structures
- Fill driveway ruts/holes
- Check roof and siding for potential leaks

## September

- Clear debris from gutters and downspouts
- Check & repair window and door seals
- Check winter tools for damage & repair/replace as needed
- Make arrangements with a paid snow plowing service, or inspect your own snow removal equipment
- Test generator and stockpile fuel. Store the fuel well away from the house
- Arrange for delivery of firewood/pellets. Store them away from structures and cover to keep dry

## October

- Drain irrigation lines, disconnect and store garden hoses
- Check insulation on any water lines that run along exterior walls
- Place a snow shovel at each door
- Keep cat litter or sand on-hand for icy walkways and to provide traction for vehicles
- Winterize vehicles
- Go through the included Winter Storm Checklist and be sure you’re prepared for several days being snowbound, with or without power.
- Review your stock of games, books, and non-electronic entertainment to keep you occupied and comfortable during snow-bound days.

Snow plowing begins after 2-inches of snow have fallen. We cannot plow ice, and there may be a delay in getting trucks out if an ice storm has preceded the snow. Plowing priorities can be found on the BVCS D website at [www.bvcsd.com](http://www.bvcsd.com). We clear the roads in order of priority, but during the worst weather some roads may need to be cleared several times before we can move to the next priority, especially if snow is still falling. Please be patient and try to stay off the roads during winter weather. Proper preparation will help you stay warm and comfortable during severe weather



# Bear Valley Springs Winter Storm Checklist



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**Be prepared for a minimum of 5 days snowbound, without power**

*Don't forget to check on friends and neighbors to see if they need help*

## Health & Personal Safety

- Sign up for CodeRed and ReadyKern<sup>1</sup>
- Stock your pantry with several days worth of non-perishable foods
- Have several days supply of bottled water, 1 gallon per day, per person (don't forget your pets!)
- Have at least 2 weeks supply of necessary medications for family and pets
- Make sure each family member has a set of cold weather gear including a wind-proof outer layer, warm hat, socks, boots and gloves
- Put together a first-aid kit including treatments for colds/flu
- Replace batteries in lanterns, flashlights and weather radio
- Have a solar charger and/or extra batteries for your cell phone

## Shelter & Heat

- Test your CO2 and smoke detectors, replace batteries.
- Make sure propane tank is filled
- Test generator, inspect extension cords, stockpile fuel to last several days
- Have wood/pellet stove cleaned and chimney swept
- Learn proper operation if it is new to you
- Stock up on firewood/pellets to last several weeks and store in a safe, dry location.
- Have HVAC inspected & filters changed
- If you do not have an alternate heat source<sup>1</sup>, equip yourself with one and enough fuel to last several days.

## Cars & Trucks

- Have a tuneup done on your car or truck
- Check tire tread for wear and replace if necessary
- Place a winter kit in each vehicle
- Carry bottled water with you when you leave
- Inspect tire chains for wear/damage and replace if needed
- Familiarize yourself with installing and removing tire chains
- Have bagged sand ready to place over the rear axel in 4WD pickup trucks to aid traction<sup>2</sup>
- Avoid traveling during winter weather advisories

1. CodeRed signup can be found on the front page at [www.bvcsd.com](http://www.bvcsd.com). ReadyKern can be found at [www.kerncountyfire.org/education/ready-kern.html](http://www.kerncountyfire.org/education/ready-kern.html)  
2. Fireplaces actually lose more heat than they create unless they are equipped with a wood burning fireplace insert  
3. Remember that 4-wheel-drive vehicles don't stop any better than a 2-wheel-drive on slick roads