



Rhode Island Department of Health  
Center for Drinking Water Quality

# Winter Weather Preparation

Winter weather events may cause problems for your public water system. The Rhode Island Department of Health, Center for Drinking Water Quality reminds you to prepare for the upcoming winter season.

Please use this document as guidance.

## Step One: Before the Storm

- Review your system's emergency management plan to verify snow and ice readiness.
- Tightly fasten all bolts of the well cap.
- Check well casing, cap, screens, and electrical conduit for holes or cracks.
- Secure screens and hatches on storage tanks.
- Mark well locations with highly visible flags.
- Test emergency generators yearly to confirm good working order.
- Confirm that indoor heaters are working properly and placed appropriately. Remove flammable and hazardous materials.

## Step Two: During the Storm

- Remove snow and ice from areas around wellhead.
- Do not plow snow over the well casing.

## Step Three: After the Storm

- Do not use ice melt around the well casing.
- If there is a loss of pressure, issue a boil water notice and notify RIDOH within 24 hours or by the end of the next business day using the contact information below for additional directions.

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**If you are no longer the administrative contact, please notify us within 24 hours.**

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