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December 2014 Issue 56

ATTORNEY GENERAL
BILL SCHUETTE'S

Senior Brigade

In order to prepare for the coming winter, the Michigan Committee for Severe Weather Awareness recommends the following tips to ensure you, your home, and your vehicle are ready for the winter storms ahead.

YOU

- Avoid overexertion while doing outdoor tasks.
- Wear loose-fitting and lightweight clothing.
- Factor in the wind chill. High winds remove heat from the body which quickly increases the chance of hypothermia.

HOME

- Have an emergency kit. It should include items like medications, batteries, battery-powered flashlight, extra food, can opener, bottled water, and cell phone charger;
- Keep on hand items for infants, elderly or disabled family members, and pets; and
- Be aware of potential fire and carbon monoxide hazards.

VEHICLE

- Winterize your vehicle and keep the tank full.
- Have a vehicle emergency kit. It should include items like a first aid kit, de-icer, extra antifreeze, jumper cables, windshield scraper and shovel, and extra blankets and clothes.

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Senior Smiles

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WINTER SHUTOFF PROTECTION

State law and the Michigan Public Service Commission (MPSC) requires all regulated gas and electric companies to provide shutoff protection for seniors during the heating season which runs from November 1st to March 31st.

If you have heating concerns this winter, the Michigan Association of United Ways can help.

They can be reached by dialing 2-1-1 or at 1-844-875-9211.

You can also get assistance through the 2-1-1 website at: www.uwmich.org/get-help.

Click here to learn more.

Holiday Shopping Tips

- **Make a budget and create your shopping list.** Don't forget to add cards, decorations, and meals into the holiday budget;
- **Compare prices online.** Some websites also allow you to compare items offered in local stores. When you're computing the final sale price, don't forget to factor in shipping costs;
- **Be stingy with your personal information.** If you're using a smart phone to shop for deals, keep in mind what amount of personal information you're sharing with these apps. As you download any new app, pay attention to what information the app collects;
- **Save purchase information.** Keep copies of receipts, order/confirmation numbers, refund and return policies, and shipping costs and warranties; and finally
- **Be aware!** Be wary of charitable organizations that pressure for an immediate, over-the-phone donation. Before giving, verify the organization at: www.mi.gov/agcharities.

Source: Federal Trade Commission

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