

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS POINTER

DECEMBER 2022

WINTER WEATHER ALERTS

Winter weather has arrived in Ada County. One way to prepare for the winter season is to recognize and understand winter weather alerts. These alerts are issued by the local [National Weather Service](#) office and can be relayed to the public in a variety of ways, including news or radio broadcasts, social media, weather apps on your smart phone, and using various [alert and notification systems](#), such as the Integrated Public Alert and Warning System (IPAWS), Emergency Alert System (EAS), and Wireless Emergency Alerts (WEA) among others (NWS, n.d.).

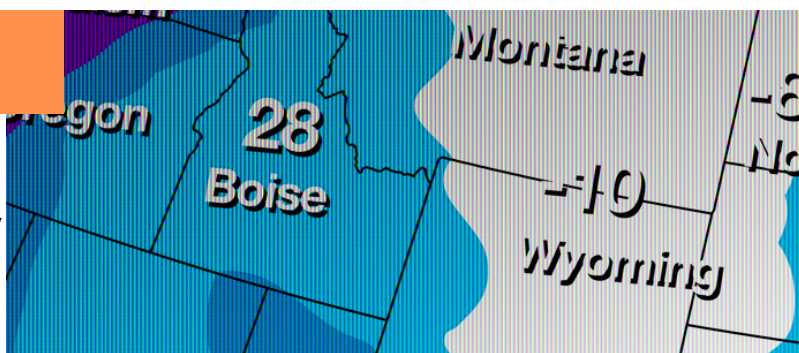


WINTER WEATHER ADVISORY

Exercise Caution - Winter weather advisories are issued for winter weather hazards that will cause inconveniences or even life threatening situations if caution isn't used. The public could be advised of things like snow accumulations, freezing rain, wind chill, sleet, icy roads, etc. (Ready.gov & NWS).

WINTER STORM WATCH

Be Prepared - Winter storm watches are put into effect when conditions are favorable for severe winter weather, such as blizzards, heavy snow, and freezing rain. Watches are typically issued 12 to 48 hours prior to the storm hitting the area (Ready.gov & NWS).



WINTER STORM WARNING

Take Action - Winter Storm Warnings are the most serious of the three alerts. These are issued when hazardous winter weather, such as heavy snow, heavy freezing rain, or heavy sleet is about to happen or is already happening. These warnings are usually given 12 to 24 hours before the storm occurs (Ready.gov & NWS).

References

Ready.gov (2022). Winter Weather. Retrieved from: [Link to site](#)

National Weather Service (NWS). (n.d.). Winter Weather Warnings, Watches and Advisories. Retrieved from: [Link to site](#)

NWS (n.d.). Warning Dissemination. Retrieved from: [Link to site](#)