



December 2025

PHILLIPS COUNTY EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT NEWSLETTER

Prepare and Be the Rescuer

You cannot prevent disasters.

Is that a statement—or a question?

You can forecast a tornado, but you cannot change its path.

You can watch floodwaters rise, but you cannot stop the rain.

So, why prepare?

If disasters are inevitable—if storms will still rage, and if people will still harm others—why fight what seems unstoppable?

Because preparation may not prevent tragedy, but it can **lessen its toll**. It can mean the difference between many lives lost and only a few. Yet even that thought feels hollow—because even one life lost is too many.

So, do nothing, and it's wrong.

Do something, and it's never enough.

In the world of emergency management, there rarely seems to be a "right" way.

People scoff at the idea of preparing for power outages, ignore mass notification signups, and hesitate to follow evacuation orders. They say they don't have the time, money, or need to stock extra food and water. But when disaster strikes, the chorus begins:

"No one warned us."

"The communication failed."

"The government should have done more."

But whose responsibility is it to keep a community safe? The commissioners? The mayor? The sheriff? Surely not the residents—or is it?

Perhaps the truth is simple, even if it's uncomfortable:

safety is everyone's responsibility.

We speak often of *social responsibility*, yet when *personal responsibility* enters the conversation, the room falls silent.

So, here is the choice we all face:

You can prepare. It might feel unnecessary, maybe even foolish. You might live a full life without ever needing that emergency kit. But if you do, you become the rescuer—the neighbor with the generator, the extra water, the helping hand when others are in need.

Or you can do nothing, and hope for the best. And if that day comes, you will depend on others—the rescuers—to save you.

Prepare, and be the rescuer.

Or don't, and be prepared for rescue.



What does the Grinch's winter storm kit include?

A flashlight, a warm blanket, and a signed complaint about the excessive snowfall.

My winter preparation plan is simple: Complain until spring.

I've put on my extra weight for winter. I call it my "hibernation insulation".

I told winter to "chill out," and it took me literally.

I'm just getting my blankets, my cocoa, and my "avoiding people until spring" attitude ready.



WINTERIZE Your Home



Your home isn't the only one that can be winterized.
Your neighbors and those most vulnerable might need your help too!

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*Once mitten,
ice shy.*

*Don't fight it.
Just go with the
snow!*

*You think you're
above the thaw?*

*Sleigh my name,
sleigh my name!*

*I only eat candy
cans in mint
condition.*

SHOVEL SMART!



Shoveling heavy, wet snow can cause back injuries
and heart attacks. Don't push yourself!



Dress warmly, making sure to
cover your head, fingers and toes.



Stay hydrated, but avoid heavy meals
right before or after shoveling.



Move only small amounts of snow
with each pass of the shovel.



Take frequent breaks.
Stop shoveling entirely if you feel exhausted!

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NATURAL GAS KEEPS YOU WARM, BUT IT CAN ALSO CAUSE HARM.

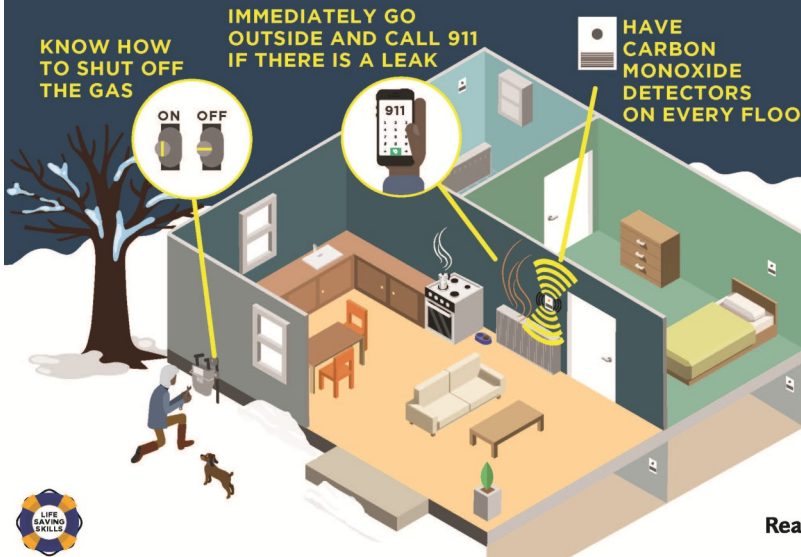
KNOW HOW
TO SHUT OFF
THE GAS

ON OFF

IMMEDIATELY GO
OUTSIDE AND CALL 911
IF THERE IS A LEAK

911

HAVE
CARBON
MONOXIDE
DETECTORS
ON EVERY FLOOR



Ready✓



*Let's coldly go where snowman
has gone before.*

*We're all dressed up with snow-
where to go*