



Ready PA Monthly - November 2022



Winter Weather Awareness

Winter Weather Awareness Week: November 6-11, 2022

We've moved into a busy month. As we get out to vote, celebrate our veterans, and enjoy family time surrounding Thanksgiving, we are inching closer to the start of winter. The early indicators for the 2022-23 Pennsylvania winter (December-February) show slightly warmer than average weather for southeastern PA and wetter than average weather for northwestern PA. Outside of those regions, there are no strong signals for above or below average temperature or precipitation patterns. While these are the averages over the three-month winter season, the daily weather can vary greatly with the usual snow, sleet and ice storms possible over the winter. To read more about what's ahead for our winter season, visit [here](#).

Let's take time to review our winter weather terminology as a start. Then, keep an eye out for further details on PEMA's [facebook](#) and [twitter](#) pages and the NWS offices' [facebook](#) and [twitter](#) pages and websites during the PA Winter Weather Awareness and Snow Squall Awareness Weeks this month!

[READ MORE](#)



Snow Squall Quick Facts

Snow Squall Awareness Week: November 14-18, 2022

What is a Snow Squall?

A snow squall is a brief, but intense period of heavy snow accompanied by strong winds and whiteout conditions. Similar to a thunderstorm during the summer, snow squalls often form on days when it is otherwise sunny and dry, so conditions change very rapidly when a squall occurs, just as they do during a thunderstorm.

Why are Snow Squalls Dangerous?

Snow squalls are really only hazardous for drivers, leading to multi-vehicle accidents. Why? The following two factors from snow squalls often combine, resulting in impossible driving conditions:

1. A reduction in visibility. Visibility is often reduced below a quarter mile thanks to heavy snowfall and gusty winds. These factors make it difficult for drivers to see what lies ahead, especially when traveling at high speeds on roadways. Remember, during a snow squall, you can go from clear and perfect conditions to a whiteout in seconds.
2. Icy roadways. Initially, the road is dry and often above freezing. As the burst of snow falls, it lands on the road and melts, dropping the temperature. The water freezes on the roadway, making for slick conditions.

What to do if a Snow Squall Warning is Issued?

The National Weather Service now issues Snow Squall Warnings to alert the motoring public of these potential dangers. However, if you don't have a way to receive these alerts, you may be unaware of the dangerous conditions ahead. Here's what you can do.

1. Be sure to pay attention to weather forecasts in advance of any days when snow squalls are forecast.
2. If you can delay travel or choose an alternate, low speed route, consider these options first.
3. Make sure your phone is set to receive Wireless Emergency Alerts (WEA) and download weather apps to have additional options to receive warnings. If you have a portable weather radio, bring it with you too.
4. If a warning is issued for your travel path, the best option is to take the nearest exit immediately to wait it out. Squalls typically last 20-30 minutes.
5. If you cannot exit, slow down to a much lower driving speed as you approach any snow. Turn on your four-way flashers and be vigilant as you navigate the squall.

6. In the event you encounter the squall, avoid slamming on your brakes. Remain alert for other motorists and accidents
7. If you are involved in an accident, act quickly and decisively! Do what you can to get to safety based on your situation. Do not stand by your vehicle if you decide to get out of it. If on foot, get as far away from the accident in a direction away from any moving vehicles to avoid being struck. (For example, if on foot, move to the right side of the road and toward the front of the accident scene versus the left side toward the median where cars are traveling two ways.) Remember, if you couldn't see and couldn't stop, it's likely oncoming drivers will not be able to do either as well. There's no perfect solution here, but getting away from potential impact zones is critical.

To learn more about staying safe in a snow squall visit [here](#).

Sign Up For Alerts!

AlertPA

Join the [AlertPA](#) notification system by CodeRED for emergency and weather related alerts, health notifications, building alerts and other updates from the commonwealth and federal agencies.

A CodeRED Weather Warning will automatically alert you through the AlertPA notification system if your address falls in the path of severe weather, as determined by the National Weather Service.

511PA

Winter weather will soon be here. Did you know you can receive your own Personal Travel Alerts? It's easy to sign up and customize your alerts: Where you want them... When you want them... What roadways you want!

Don't want alerts on the weekend? No problem! Just set your alerts on weekdays only or before your daily commute. [511PA](#) provides traffic delay warnings, weather forecasts, traffic speed information and access to more than 860 traffic cameras.

We encourage you to "Know Before You Go" by checking conditions on more than 40,000 roadway miles by visiting [511PA](#). It is free and available 24 hours a day. [511PA](#) is also available through a smartphone application for iPhone and Android devices by calling 5-1-1 or following regional Twitter alerts accessible on the [511PA](#) website. Sign up for both [AlertPA](#) and [511PA](#) today!





#CallUtilitiesNow



Need Help Heating Your Home

The Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) helps families living on low incomes pay their heating bills in the form of a cash grant. Households in immediate danger of being without heat can also qualify for crisis grants.

The cash grant is a one-time payment sent directly to the utility company/fuel provider to be credited on your bill. These grants range from \$300 to \$1,000 based on household size, income and fuel type. Remember: This is a grant and does not have to be repaid.

Eligibility:

- You must meet income guidelines
- You don't have to be on public assistance
- You don't need to have an unpaid heating bill
- You can rent or own your home

Learn more about LIHEAP and how to apply [here](#).

For additional public assistance programs available, visit [here](#).

[NOVEMBER TIP SHEET: SNOW SQUALL SAFETY TIP SHEET](#)

[NOVEMBER SOCIAL MEDIA TOOLKIT](#)

[If you received this newsletter as a forward, subscribe here.](#)