

# Major Storm Safety

**Prevent fires, electrical shock and carbon monoxide poisoning when coping with a disaster.**

- **Use flashlights instead of candles if the power goes out. Stock up on batteries.**

*Use flashlights instead of candles that can easily start a fire. Candle fires have more than doubled in the past decade and have turned deadly during power outages when smoke alarms also may not work.*

- **Give your smoke alarms fresh batteries.**

*A working smoke alarm can double your family's chances of surviving a fire. Make sure your smoke alarms have fresh batteries. Install a battery operated or battery back-up smoke alarm if you only have hard-wired ones.*

- **Make and practice a home escape plan, with two ways**

**out and an outside meeting place.**

*Teach your home's escape plan to your holiday guests and if you are visiting friends and relatives, ask about the escape plan and meeting place for their house.*

- **Use caution with alternative heating and cooking appliances.**

*During windy conditions, a sudden downdraft could blow the fire out of the fireplace into your room. Always use a screen to keep sparks and embers contained.*

*Do not use a charcoal or propane grill inside the home. This could pose a carbon monoxide or an explosion hazard.*

- **Make sure your home fire extinguisher is handy and fully charged.**



## **FireFACTORS**

**Office of the State Fire Marshal  
Department of Fire Services**

P.O. Box 1025 State Road • Stow, Massachusetts 01775 • (978) 567-3300 • [www.mass.gov/dfs](http://www.mass.gov/dfs)

- **Use generators outdoors only.**  
*Generators and other fuel powered machines should be used outside the home. Carbon monoxide fumes are odorless and can quickly overwhelm you indoors.*

### **Calling for Help**

*Charge up your cell phone battery in advance.*

*Fire alarm boxes may not work if the power is out.*

*Do not be afraid to call for help in an emergency or if you think you may be in trouble.*

*Avoid unnecessary calls to emergency numbers.*

### **Gas Safety**

*Smell and listen for leaky gas connections. If you believe there is a gas leak, leave immediately and leave the doors open.*

*Never strike a match. Any size flame can spark an explosion.*

### **Remember Water and Electricity Do Not Mix!**

*Watch for downed wires. All downed wires should be considered "live." Be sure to explain this to children.*

*Do not venture into a flooded basement. If the outlets or the fuse box in the basement is under water, it could electrically charge the water and electrocute you. Flooded water may contain untreated sewage and cause serious health problems.*

*If you fill the bathtub with water "just in case", be sure to keep all electrical appliances at a safe distance.*