

Fire Department Letterhead

Plan for Safety During Severe Winter Weather

McMurrich / Monteith – Feb 19th 2014 This winter, Ontario has experienced record cold temperatures, blizzard conditions and a devastating ice storm. There are still several weeks of winter weather ahead, so the McMurrich / Monteith Fire department is urging residents to plan for safety before another weather emergency strikes.

"With this winter's severe weather, power outages have been a big issue," said Fire Chief Paul Schaefer. "When the power is out, people often engage in unsafe behaviours that can result in fires or carbon monoxide poisoning."

The McMurrich / Monteith Fire Department is encouraging residents to prepare for emergencies by reviewing these tips and taking action now:

- If your smoke alarms and carbon monoxide alarms are connected to your home's electrical system, make sure they have battery-backups so they will still work during a power outage.
- Flashlights, glow lights and battery-operated lanterns are a safer option than candles. Keep several on hand, along with fresh batteries.
- Keep a supply of ready-to-eat tinned and packaged foods. Barbecues must never be used indoors.
- Invest in a battery-operated or hand crank radio so you can stay up to date with the latest emergency information.
- Remember that cordless phones require electrical power to operate. Keep your cell phone charged and consider purchasing a phone that does not require electricity.
- Create a family *Emergency Preparedness Action Plan* using the online tool developed by the Office of the Fire Marshal and Emergency Management. The plan can be found at:

<https://beprepared.emergencymanagementontario.ca/myplan>

For more information contact:

Paul Schaefer or April Stockfish at 705 685 – 7883 and your call will be returned.