

This preparedness guide explains the cold weather hazards we can get in Florida and suggests life-saving actions YOU can take to avoid getting caught in a dangerous cold weather-related situation.



Although many people travel head south in the winter to escape the cold temperatures and snowy conditions that northern states endure, it isn't always warmer in Florida. Sometimes our visitors are greeted by more chilly conditions than they would have experienced farther north. These severe cold outbreaks that occur in Florida at least once a year are caused by strong cold fronts that move through the state and northerly winds behind the front brings cold air and blustery winds southward into Florida from places as far away as Canada or the northern Plains.

Florida Cold Weather Facts:

- * The coldest temperature recorded in Florida was -2°F in Tallahassee on February 13, 1899. At the same time, snow up to three inches deep was reported by several cities in the Panhandle.
- * Snow has been reported numerous times throughout the state. On January 19, 1977, snow fell on Miami, Florida and was seen in Homestead, Florida (which is 22 miles south of Miami).
- * The deepest snowfall ever measured in Florida (four inches), occurred in Milton on March 6, 1954.

For additional information on cold weather and cold weather safety visit:

<http://www.nws.noaa.gov/om/winter/>

www.FloridaDisaster.org



A Guide to Cold Weather Safety

The National Weather Service will Issue Advisories, Watches and Warnings when dangerous cold weather is in the forecast. It is important to know your winter weather terms!

Wind Chill: When strong winds combine with cold outside conditions, the heat loss from a person's skin can be accelerated. This is called the wind chill. The wind chill can make it feel like it is much colder outside than what the actual temperature is.

Freeze/Hard Freeze: A freeze occurs anytime the temperatures fall below freezing (32° F) for a certain duration of time. The weather criteria for a freeze or hard freeze event to occur varies depending on your location within the state. Any form of a freeze will significantly damage crops and other sensitive outdoor vegetation. When the temperatures fall this low, it can become very dangerous for anyone to stay outside for a prolonged period of time.

Frost: Frost forms when the air temperature is near or slightly above freezing (32-36° F) and the winds are calm. Frost can kill or cause frost-burn to sensitive outdoor plants.

Winter Storm: A winter storm is hazardous weather in the form of heavy snow, freezing rain, or sleet. Although this is rare in Florida, if a winter storm is in the forecast, you should make sure your Family Disaster Plan and Disaster Supply Kit is up-to-date because this will likely cause widespread power outages and will also make travel very difficult.

Practice Cold Weather Safety

When cold weather is in the forecast, remember the "5 P's of Cold Weather Safety."

Protect People

Dress in layers and wear a hat and gloves. It is important to try to stay out of the wind and to stay dry.

Also, remember to check on young children and the elderly who are most sensitive to cold weather.

Protect Pets

If cold weather is in the forecast, be sure to bring outdoor pets inside or give them a warm shelter to stay in.

Protect Plants

Cover cold-sensitive plants to protect them from the dangerous temperatures.

Protect Pipes

Cover exposed outdoor pipes and allow outdoor faucets to slowly drip to prevent from freezing and breaking.

Practice Fire Safety

Use safe heating sources indoors. Do not use fuel-burning devices such as grills; they release carbon monoxide, which is a deadly gas. Also, make sure to use space heaters according to their instructions and be attentive to open flames.

Wind Chill Chart

		Temperature (°F)																		
		Calm	40	35	30	25	20	15	10	5	0	-5	-10	-15	-20	-25	-30	-35	-40	-45
Wind (mph)	5	36	31	25	19	13	7	1	-5	-11	-16	-22	-28	-34	-40	-46	-52	-57	-63	
	10	34	27	21	15	9	3	-4	-10	-16	-22	-28	-35	-41	-47	-53	-59	-66	-72	
	15	32	25	19	13	6	0	-7	-13	-19	-26	-32	-39	-45	-51	-58	-64	-71	-77	
	20	30	24	17	11	4	-2	-9	-15	-22	-29	-35	-42	-48	-55	-61	-68	-74	-81	
	25	29	23	16	9	3	-4	-11	-17	-24	-31	-37	-44	-51	-58	-64	-71	-78	-84	
	30	28	22	15	8	1	-5	-12	-19	-26	-33	-39	-46	-53	-60	-67	-73	-80	-87	
	35	28	21	14	7	0	-7	-14	-21	-27	-34	-41	-48	-55	-62	-69	-76	-82	-89	
	40	27	20	13	6	-1	-8	-15	-22	-29	-36	-43	-50	-57	-64	-71	-78	-84	-91	
	45	26	19	12	5	-2	-9	-16	-23	-30	-37	-44	-51	-58	-65	-72	-79	-86	-93	
	50	26	19	12	4	-3	-10	-17	-24	-31	-38	-45	-52	-60	-67	-74	-81	-88	-95	
	55	25	18	11	4	-3	-11	-18	-25	-32	-39	-46	-54	-61	-68	-75	-82	-89	-97	
60	25	17	10	3	-4	-11	-19	-26	-33	-40	-48	-55	-62	-69	-76	-84	-91	-98		

Frostbite Times: 30 minutes 10 minutes 5 minutes