

Winter Safety Guide

OLYMPIC VALLEY PUBLIC SERVICE DISTRICT & OLYMPIC VALLEY FIRE DEPARTMENT



HOME SAFETY

Carbon Monoxide (CO) Poisoning

The risk of Carbon Monoxide (CO) poisoning increases in the winter when home heating systems are running.

What is Carbon Monoxide (CO)? CO is a colorless, odorless gas. It can be dangerous, even deadly, as it prevents oxygen from reaching vital organs and tissues. The most common symptoms of CO poisoning are headache, dizziness, weakness, nausea, vomiting, chest pain, and confusion. Severe symptoms include loss of consciousness, seizures, and even death. People who are sleeping or who have been drinking alcohol can die before ever having symptoms.

PREVENT:

- Have your heating system, water heater and any other gas, oil, or coal burning appliances serviced by a qualified technician every year.
- Do not heat your home with a gas stove or oven.
- Never use a charcoal grill, hibachi, lantern, or portable camping stove inside a home, tent, or camper.
- Never run a motor vehicle, generator, pressure washer, or any gasoline-powered engine inside a basement, garage, or other enclosed structure, even if the doors or windows are open.
- Do not run a motor vehicle without confirming the tailpipe is clear.
- Keep vents and flues free of debris/snow, as it can block ventilation lines.

DETECT

- **Install CO alarms** on every floor of your home, especially near bedrooms.
- **Change the batteries** in your CO detector **every six (6) months**. If you don't have battery powered or battery back-up CO detectors, buy one soon.
- Always **follow directions** in the CO alarm manual.
- **Check CO alarms regularly** to make sure they are working.

PROTECT

- If your CO alarm goes off, act immediately. Gather your family and pets, go outside for fresh air, and call 911.
- If someone has collapsed, has difficulty breathing, or cannot be awakened, call 911.
- If you suspect CO poisoning, call 911 right away.
- Contact your gas company to inspect and fix the source of the CO leak.
- Call Poison Help at 1-800-222-1222 if you have exposure or questions.
- Avoid re-entering the house until it's been safely inspected and cleared by professionals.

In this guide, you can find:

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Propane Tank & Heater Vent Reminders

Keep your propane tanks, regulators, and heater vents clear of snow during the winter months to prevent potential damage that could lead to a gas leak. It's important to remove snow from exposed gas lines, regulators, and meters to prevent blocked vents and regulator malfunctions that could release gas vapor into your home or business. Additionally, snow accumulation can cause gas lines to snap at the tank, releasing gas vapor into the snow, which may find its way into a structure and cause an explosion or fire.

The Fire Department recommends keeping the area around propane tanks completely free of snow. If you detect a strong or persistent gas odor, immediately evacuate the building. Do not use a telephone, flashlight, light switches, or any electrical devices, and avoid activities that could ignite the gas, such as lighting a match or starting a vehicle. Call 9-1-1 from a neighbor's phone, a cell phone, or any phone outside the house to report the emergency.

WINTER TRAVEL



Plan ahead

CHECK ROAD & WEATHER CONDITIONS

- Checking weather and road conditions ensures you are aware of potential hazards and can adjust your travel plans accordingly.

KEEP YOUR GAS TANK FULL

- Keep a full tank of gas to prevent fuel line freezing and ensure you have enough fuel in case of emergencies or delays.

INSPECT YOUR TIRES

- Check tire pressure when cold, inspect tire treads, and have chains available.

CAR PREP: ENSURE KEY SYSTEMS ARE READY

- Check brakes, battery, windshield wipers, headlights, heater, and defroster to ensure they are in good working order.

EMERGENCY SUPPLY KIT

- Create an emergency supply kit for your vehicle, including jumper cables, flashlight, sand, water, warm clothes, blankets, non-perishable food, shovel, ice scraper, and extra fuel.

On the road

SLOW DOWN

- When driving on icy or snowy roads, increase your following distance and reduce speed gradually to maintain control and prevent skidding.

DO NOT RIDE THE BRAKES

- Avoid riding the brakes to prevent losing traction and to maintain better control on slippery or icy roads.

DO NOT USE CRUISE CONTROL

- Avoid using cruise control as it reduces your ability to react quickly to slippery conditions and can increase the risk of losing control.

INCREASE DISTANCE

- Increase the distance between cars to allow more time to react and stop safely on slippery or icy roads.

NEVER PASS SNOW REMOVAL EQUIPMENT

- Refrain from passing snow removal equipment because it may be clearing ice or snow, creating hazardous conditions and limiting your visibility

Chain Level Requirements

R-1

Chains are required for all vehicles except passenger vehicles and light-duty trucks under 6,000 pounds gross weight and equipped with snow tires on at least two drive wheels. Chains must be carried by vehicles using snow tires. All vehicles towing trailers must have chains on one drive axle. Trailers with brakes must have chains on at least one axle.

R-2

Chains or traction devices are required on all vehicles except four-wheel/all-wheel drive vehicles with snow tires on all wheels. NOTE: All four-wheel/all-wheel drive vehicles must carry traction devices in chain control areas. 4WD must be engaged on 4WD vehicles.

R-3

Chains or traction devices are required on all vehicles, NO EXCEPTIONS



COMMUNITY

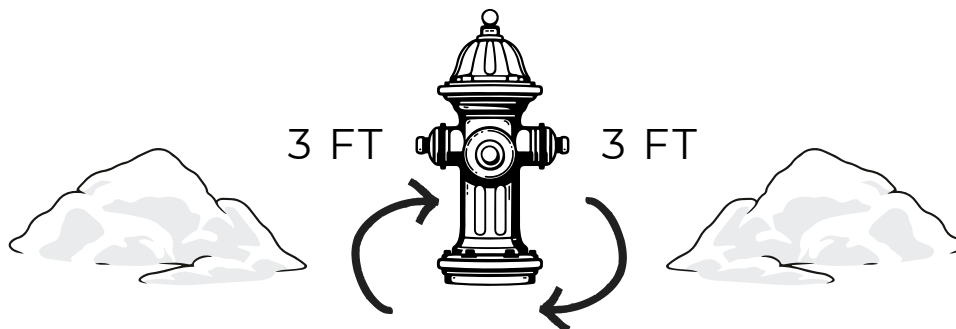
Adopt a Hydrant

Maintaining winter access to fire hydrants is important and challenging. In Olympic Valley, access is generally maintained by the water purveyor, often with assistance from the Fire Department. Sometimes the job is overwhelming and requires identifying strategic hydrants until all can be cleared, often taking the better part of a week.

Please consider adopting a hydrant. No permission or paperwork is necessary. When digging out a hydrant, please note that we need at least 3 feet clearance in all directions from the center of the hydrant.

While hydrants are marked with snow stakes, please find the hydrant closest to your house before snowfall.

Do your part for winter fire safety in Olympic Valley.





EMERGENCY ALERTS



We encourage all residents and visitors to utilize digital tools to keep up-to-date on weather and emergency alerts.

These notification systems allow rapid notice of critical information to keep you safe and informed of severe weather, unexpected road closures, missing persons and evacuation of buildings and/or neighborhoods.

Visit the links below to learn more, download and sign-up:

[Everbridge Nixle](#)

[Olympic Valley Community Connect](#)

[TahoeAlerts](#)

WEATHER UPDATES



Winter Weather Terms

Winter Storm Advisory

Issued when wintry weather is expected.

Exercise caution.

Winter Storm Watch

Issued when there is the potential for significant and hazardous winter weather.

Be prepared.

Winter Storm Warning

Issued when a significant combination of hazardous winter weather is occurring or imminent.

Take Action.

Avalanche Prone Areas

Certain areas of our community are prone to avalanches. Be aware and keep informed!

The Sierra Avalanche Center is an excellent resource for information, including current forecasts and conditions, observations, and advisory by elevation.

VISIT WWW.SIERRAAVALANCHECENTER.ORG FOR MORE INFORMATION
OR CALL 530-587-3558 X258 FOR A RECORDED AVALANCHE ADVISORY.

Thank you for reading!

Olympic Valley Public Service District &
Olympic Valley Fire Department

530-583-4692