

Warm ideas for Winter Awareness Week

Despite the lack of snow so far, Gov. James Blanchard has designated this week, Nov. 25-Dec. 1, as Winter Awareness Week. The lack of snow and ice means residents still have some time to prepare for winter's onslaught.

"The people of Michigan need to be aware of the danger these winter hazards present and of the steps that can be taken to prepare for them. The state, county and municipal emergency preparedness coordinators, the National Weather Service and the news media are cooperating to educate the public about these hazards and how to prepare for them," according to Blanchard's executive declaration.

The Farmington Hills police and fire de-

partments offer winter safety tips to increase public awareness of winter dangers and safety precautions that can be taken.

WHEN OUTDOORS in extreme cold weather.

- You should wear loose-fitting, lightweight warm clothing in several layers, rather than a single layer of thick clothing. Outer garments should be tightly woven and water repellent. Wear a wool hat and mittens instead of gloves, which don't allow your fingers to have contact to keep each other warm. Keep clothes dry and remove all wet clothing as soon as possible.
- Avoid overexertion from walking or shoveling snow, even if you are in good

physical condition. Do not stay outside for lengthy periods because frostbite or cold exposure may result.

Prepare your vehicle for winter travel by:

- Keeping it in good condition, always with a full tank of gas to keep water out of the tank.
- Emergency storm supplies that should be kept in your car include a shovel, flashlight, first aid kit, set of tire chains, tow chain or rope, container of sand, windshield scraper and battery-operated radio.
- If you become stranded in your car during a storm, remember to:
- Stay in your car. Disorientation comes quickly in blowing and drifting snow.

- Wait for help, don't panic and stay calm.
- Keep a window open a bit to avoid carbon monoxide poisoning.
- Run the engine and heater sparingly.
- Keep watch. If you are with other people, don't let everyone sleep at the same time.
- Occasionally exercise.

YOUR HOME can be prepared for winter storms by:

- Stocking it with canned and dried foods, flashlights, candles, a battery-powered radio, extra blankets and heavy clothes.
- Cover windows with plastic, caulk and

weatherstrip doors and wrap water pipes with special pipe insulation.

Winter safety in your home can be maintained by:

- Keeping chimneys clean at all times.
- Properly using wood-burning stoves, kerosene heaters and space heaters, which, for example, should not be placed near combustible materials.
- They should use the equipment as it was designed. Follow the instructions. The equipment usually is safe if used appropriately and by the instructions," deputy fire Chief Peter Baldwin said.
- Keeping fire hydrants in front or near homes free of snow and ice also helps the fire department. "We rely on having these hydrants visible for us," Baldwin said.

Teen gets probation for role in fatal crash

A West Bloomfield youth was sentenced to two years probation for negligent homicide, a charge stemming from a car accident last March that killed a 16-year-old Groves student.

Oakland County Circuit Judge Alice Gilbert ordered 18-year-old Jeffrey Hong to complete two years probation, pay \$500 in costs and not drive while on probation. Hong pleaded no contest to the driving charge, after Gilbert refused his request to place him on the Youthful Trainee Act program.

Hong, now a freshman at Michigan State University, was also required to seek mental health counseling as part of the sentence.

Hong was driving a 1988 Hyundai that struck a tree on Sunningdale, a subdivision street in Bloomfield Township. The accident killed Hong's friend Andrew Choi, then a Groves sophomore. Hong and another friend, Sung Hoon Lee, were injured in the crash.

DURING A preliminary examination, a defense attorney said the three youths had attended a Bible

study group just before the accident. Police said the car was going up to 43 mph at the time of the crash. But Hong's attorney, Donald Lewis, introduced an accident specialist who said the car was not speeding.

Lewis said he was a disappointed Judge Gilbert refused to place Hong on YTA program, which allows for young people who have completed

probation to emerge with a clean record.

Lewis said neither the probation department nor the prosecutor objected to Hong being granted YTA status. "This particular judge had problems with it and refused it and was forcing us to go to trial," said Lewis.

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