

Winter storm preparedness checklist

For higher educational institutions

Winter storms present unique challenges to higher educational institutions, affecting not only the safety and well-being of students, faculty, and staff but also the integrity of infrastructure and the continuation of academic programs. Preparing for severe winter weather is not only a matter of safety but also a strategic initiative to preserve the educational mission.



Here's a checklist to support colleges and universities in their preparation for winter storms:

Emergency communication plan:

- Develop and communicate a comprehensive emergency plan to all students, staff, and faculty.
- Establish communication channels for updates and instructions during a winter storm.

Community safety:

- Provide winter safety training to students, staff, faculty, including driving in icy conditions.
- Establish guidelines for remote learning or campus closures during severe weather.

Property maintenance:

- Inspect and maintain heating systems to ensure they are in proper working order.
- Communicate with students who live on campus with clear instructions on how to prevent freezing pipes.

Snow removal and de-icing:

- Contract with a reliable snow removal service for timely clearing of parking lots and walkways.
- Stock up on de-icing materials to prevent slips and falls.

Emergency supplies:

- Maintain a stockpile of emergency supplies, including blankets, flashlights, and non-perishable food.
- Ensure the availability of essential medical supplies for employees.

Backup power:

- Test backup power generators to ensure they are functional in case of power outages.
- Have a sufficient supply of fuel for generators.

Data backup:

- Regularly backup critical data to prevent loss in case of power outages or system failures.
- Implement cloud-based storage solutions for accessibility during emergencies.

Remote work infrastructure:

- Ensure employees have the necessary tools for remote work, including laptops and secure VPN access.
- Communicate policies and expectations to students, faculty and staff in the event of campus closure.

Insurance review:

- Review and update property and business interruption insurance policies to ensure adequate coverage.
- Understand the policies related to weather-related damages.


Community collaboration:

- Collaborate with local emergency services and community organizations for mutual support.
- Participate in community initiatives for winter storm preparedness.

Food and Health Services:

- Ensure that campus health services are adequately staffed and supplied to handle potential weather-related injuries or conditions.
- Plan for food service continuity, including the ability to provide meals to students if they are unable to leave their residences.

Regular drills and training:

- Conduct regular drills to ensure employees are familiar with emergency procedures.
 - Provide ongoing training on winter storm preparedness and response.
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How can Everbridge help?

Everbridge offers comprehensive solutions designed to empower businesses and educational institutions in their preparedness and resilience against the devastating impacts of severe weather events. Leveraging state-of-the-art technology and an international perspective, the Everbridge suite of tools enables proactive measures, swift responses, and robust recovery strategies.

Everbridge early warning systems are instrumental in severe weather preparedness, providing real-time alerts based on sophisticated risk intelligence. By integrating weather forecasts, weather event monitoring, and predictive analytics, Everbridge ensures that businesses and educational institutions receive timely notifications, allowing for strategic decision-making and preemptive actions to protect assets and personnel.

The communication capabilities of Everbridge 360 play a pivotal role in crisis management during severe weather events. Everbridge facilitates instant, multi-channel communication, ensuring that critical information reaches the right people at the right time. This includes notifying employees, students, staff and faculty about potential risks, coordinating emergency responses, and disseminating authoritative updates to stakeholders. Such precision in communication is invaluable in averting panic, minimizing disruptions, and, most importantly, ensuring the safety of individuals.

Everbridge Crisis Management and Incident Response products extend beyond the immediate event. They enable businesses and educational institutions to orchestrate a well-coordinated response, manage resources effectively, and implement recovery plans efficiently. By providing a centralized platform for collaboration, Everbridge facilitates seamless communication and decision-making, mitigating the impact of severe weather on operations and bolstering the organization's resilience.

Everbridge goes beyond being merely a tool; we are a strategic partner in fortifying businesses and educational institutions against the unpredictability of severe weather. Our solutions not only ensure a proactive stance against potential risks but also empower organizations to navigate through crises with agility, minimize losses, and emerge stronger in the aftermath.