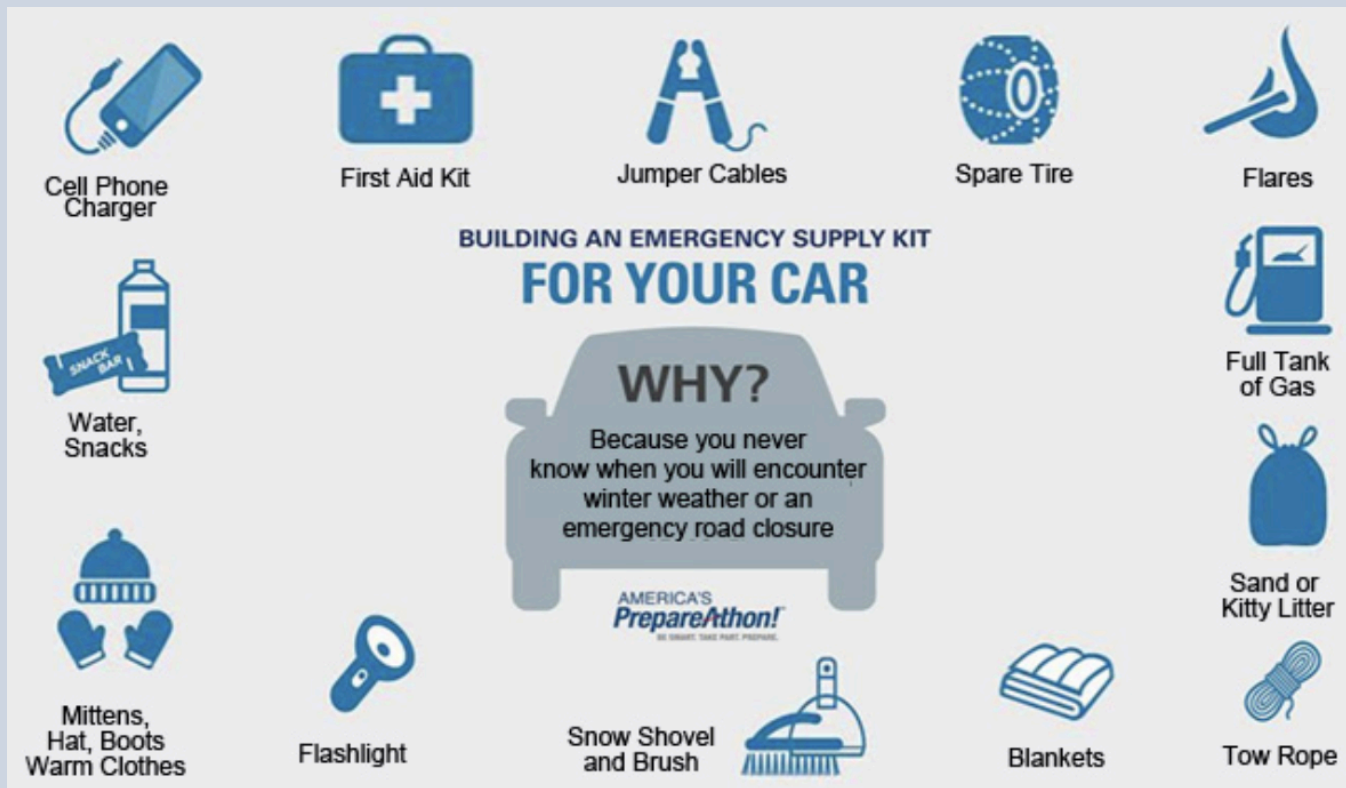


Boston Public Schools Safety Services Office of Emergency Management BPS Prepared!

The best way to be BPS Prepared at work is to start by being prepared at home!
Being ready to react during natural or manmade disasters will empower you to be less reliant on others.

In becoming BPS Prepared, we built your home emergency kit, thinking about hazards and the ways in which you are vulnerable, with consideration of all the members of your household when compiling your supplies. This led us to examining a pet emergency kit! What's next? YOUR VEHICLE!

Having good habits and keeping a few key items stored safely in your vehicle will ensure you're able to be safely self-reliant in the event you are stranded. See the below infographic from the National Weather Service.



The American Automobile Association is a great place for Driver Safety, especially when it comes to winter hazards.

AAA's top tips for cold weather driving:

- Keep a bundle of cold-weather gear in your car, such as extra food and water, warm clothing, a flashlight, a glass scraper, blankets, medications, and more.
- Make certain your tires are properly inflated and have plenty of tread.
- Keep at least half a tank of fuel in your vehicle at all times.
- Never warm up a vehicle in an enclosed area, such as a garage.
- Do not use cruise control when driving on any slippery surface, such as on ice and snow.

If you get stuck in the snow:

- Stay with your vehicle: Your vehicle provides temporary shelter and makes it easier for rescuers to locate you. Do not try to walk in a severe storm. It is easy to lose sight of your vehicle in blowing snow and become lost.
- Don't over exert yourself: When digging out your vehicle, listen to your body and stop if you become tired.
- Be Visible: Tie a brightly colored cloth to the antenna of your vehicle or place a cloth at the top of a rolled up window to signal distress. At night, keep the dome light on if possible. It only uses a small amount of electricity and will make it easier for rescuers to find you.
- Clear the Exhaust Pipe: Make sure the exhaust pipe is not clogged with snow, ice or mud. A blocked exhaust pipe can cause deadly carbon monoxide gas to leak into the passenger compartment of the vehicle while the engine is running.
- Stay Warm: Use whatever is available to insulate your body from the cold. This could include floor mats, newspapers or paper maps. Pre-pack blankets and heavy clothing to use in case of an emergency.
- Conserve Fuel: If possible, only run the engine and heater long enough to remove the chill. This will help to conserve fuel.

If you have questions or are looking for further information, contact
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