

## Winter Can Pose Hazards To Michigan Residents

Heavy snow, extreme cold, ice and wind routinely affect Michigan during winter and pose dangers to its residents and property.

In an effort to raise awareness about the potential dangers, Governor Jennifer M. Granholm has declared November 1-7, 2009, as Winter Hazards Awareness Week in Michigan. IIM is a member of the Michigan Committee for Severe Weather Awareness, which sponsors activities to promote weather safety to Michigan residents.

According to the National Weather Service, Michigan's temperatures for the 2008-2009 winter season were below average across the state and the coldest since 1993-94. The past winter ranked as the 20<sup>th</sup> coldest winter on record for Michigan, with several locations including Flint and Marquette recording a top 10 coldest winter.

To prepare for this year's winter storm at home, the Michigan Committee for Severe Weather Awareness recommends the following:

- Keep handy a battery-powered flashlight, NOAA weather radio and portable radio, extra food (canned or dried food is best), can opener, and bottled water (at least 3 gallons per person).
- Make sure each member of household has a warm coat, gloves, hat and water-resistant boots.
- Ensure that extra blankets and heavy clothes are available.
- Keep on hand items for infant, elderly or disabled family members.
- Be aware of potential fire and carbon monoxide hazards if you plan to use an emergency heating source such as a fireplace, wood stove or space heater.

For a complete packet of information to promote winter weather safety, contact Lori Conarton, IIM Communications Director, at [iim@iiminfo.org](mailto:iim@iiminfo.org).