

## ***Winter Storm Preparation***

While it does not happen often, Goose Island does experience winter storms with snow and ice. A few steps to prepare can allow each of us to enjoy our island in winter.

**Generators** - Full house generators should kick on automatically. They may use about 40 gallons of propane a day when running continuously. Check your propane levels. Generators self-test once per week - and have a green light when in good operational level. Portable generators require gas - make sure you have sufficient gas for an extended power outage for both full house and portable generators.

If you rely on electric for heat and do not have a generator, make sure you have an alternate heat source: gas log fireplace or wood burning fireplace. If wood burning, check your wood supply - have split wood close to your home. DO NOT use a grill inside as a heat source or for cooking. Gas grills generate carbon monoxide which can kill you. Gas fireplaces can also create carbon monoxide. Have battery operated carbon monoxide warning alarms and leave a window cracked

Water - the Goose Island Water System does not pump water if we have no power - our pumps require electricity to run. Make sure you have sufficient drinking water available. Fill a bath tub with water prior to the power going off and have buckets available to flush. Keep about 20 gallons of water in your basement or garage just to have it in the event of a power outage. If you have a private well and generator at your home - you will have water. If you have a reservoir for our GIHA well system but no generator in your home - you will not have water. If you have a hot tub - be careful about using the water from it for flushing. The chemicals in your hot tub may impact the chemicals in your septic system.

Remove any outside garden hose from exterior faucets. Lowes or Home Depot sells inexpensive Styrofoam covers for exterior faucets to protect them from freezing. If frigid temperatures are forecast, our Well & Water committee will reach out to one home on each well to let water run overnight to keep water flowing.

If you do not have a generator - keep flashlights and battery operated lanterns handy. Do not use candles - many house fires are caused by unattended candles. Keep refrigerator and freezer doors closed. Food will stay safe for about 4 hours in a refrigerator, 24 hours in a half full freezer and 48 hours in a full freezer.

If the temperatures are below freezing, stay off our roads until we know they are safe. We do not clear the roads in GIHA. Do not attempt to drive without 4 wheel drive. Worst case scenario - wait until the temps go above freezing and ice is melted before attempting to drive. Our road warriors post regular updates on the GIHA Facebook page and put down salt in icy areas - particularly the S curve coming in Whispering Pine Lane. If you see a tree down - ask for help to clear the road. Facebook can be a good tool to communicate if our internet service is working.

Charge your cell phones and tablets prior to the storm. Internet service may be down or spotty with power outages. Check in with a friend or family member to let them know you are ok.

Keep your pets inside - if you wouldn't want to be out in it, neither does your pet.

Be responsible and track the storm forecast. The Weather Channel and local channels have been providing good coverage of any winter storms.

If we have severe weather - check in on your neighbors when it is safe to do so. Decks and walkways will be slippery - clear with a shovel or broom. Or just stay inside until it warms up/

Safety is our number one priority. If you have a problem or see something that you need help with - reach out to a neighbor for help.