



NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Fire Chief

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WINTER WEATHER ADVISORY WARMING CENTER OPENS IN HIGH DESERT

**American Red Cross Warming Center
Victorville Fairgrounds, Doris Davies Complex
14800 7th St., Victorville**

**(SB I-15: exit Roy Rogers Dr., go East to La Paz Dr., go North, Fairgrounds on right)
(NB I-15: Exit Roy Rogers Dr., go straight, Fairgrounds on right)**

The National Weather Service has issued a winter weather advisory for the High Desert area. Snow levels are expected to drop below 2300 feet throughout the evening and into Monday. The public is advised to monitor weather reports and take extra precautions if driving through the High Desert or any of the affected areas.

Holiday traffic is expected to be heaviest along Interstate 15. Due to weather conditions, mainly snow, travelers can expect traffic delays. Travelers should be aware that there is the possibility that I-15 may be closed for long periods of time and therefore should prepare for cold weather travel. Carry tire chains in case roads are covered with snow, and adhere to all road blocks and road closures to make sure you safely get to your destination.

The American Red Cross has set up a Warming Center at the Victorville Fairgrounds. Travelers and those needing shelter are urged to utilize the facility and to make their way to the center prior to heavy snow fall.

San Bernardino County Firefighters along with Sheriff Deputies are frequenting known homeless encampments throughout the High Desert and advising occupants of the shelter availability.

San Bernardino County Fire offers these winter travel safety tips: **In a Car or Truck**

- Never leave the vehicle. If you are stranded, the vehicle offers a form of protection from overexposure to the cold. A single person walking through the snow is also harder to find than a stranded car or truck.
- It is okay to run the car for short periods to provide some heat. Remember to crack the windows a small amount to allow for the circulation of fresh air. Dangerous exhaust fumes, including carbon monoxide, can build up very quickly. This is especially true if the tailpipe is buried in the snow.
- Keep yourself moving. A car offers little room for you to keep your blood flowing, but exercise is a must. Clap your hands, stomp your feet, and move around as much as possible at least once an hour. In addition to keeping your body moving, keep your mind and spirit from wandering too far into gloom. While potentially dangerous situations are not a time of joy, keeping yourself from added stress will allow you to make smarter decisions when necessitated.
- Make the car visible for a rescue. Hang bits of bright colored cloth or plastic from the windows. If the snow has stopped falling, open the hood of the car as a signal of distress.

For help finding shelters from the cold weather and other community resources, call **211**, San Bernardino County's United Way referral system, or visit the website at www.211sb.org.

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