

City of Bristol Tennessee

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Friday, January 25, 2013

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Always Be Prepared for Severe Weather Events

Bristol's Police Department officials ask that everyone take the time to prepare for severe weather events before the weather hits. "Make sure your vehicle has plenty of gas and the tires are properly inflated, carry some emergency supplies in your vehicle such as a blanket, change of clothing, healthy snacks, water, portable radio, and a cell phone charger. Most importantly, if you don't have to go out, stay home," says Bristol Police Department Communications Manager/911 Director, Virginia Smelser.

Always check on your elderly family members and neighbors, they are some of the most vulnerable in the community. Make sure they have warmth, food and other necessities.

During bad weather events remember 911 Dispatch calls usually triple during the peak of a storm. The Police and Fire Department answer emergency calls first. Calls that are non-emergency are put into holding until units become available. If your call is not an emergency you will be advised of the response delay.

If you have vehicle problems, try to get your vehicle off the road and out of the main travel path. Stay in your vehicle. If you have to get out, stay clear of the travel path and potential sliding vehicles.

If you call or have someone call for a wrecker, be sure and ask about fees and their payment policy. Don't wait until the wrecker has hooded your vehicle to find out how much it will be, where it will be towed, and the possible storage fees.

"One of the more important things to remember is that the 911 phone lines need to be available for emergencies, please do not call 911 to ask about road conditions or for a weather report. If you have a non-emergency situation, call 423-898-5600 which is the non-emergency administrative line for the Bristol Tennessee Police Department," added Smelser.

For more information, please contact Smelser at 423-989-5600 or at vsmselser@bristoltn.org.

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