

# WOOD RIVER VALLEY EMERGENCY PARTNERSHIP

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## **Mayors, Sheriff, and County Commissioners Declare December As Winter Preparedness Month “Joining Together For Preparedness Efforts”**

Wood River Valley – Citing the importance of emergency preparedness in the Wood River Valley, the Mayors of Bellevue, Carey, Hailey, Ketchum, and Sun Valley, the Blaine County Sheriff, and the Chairman of the Blaine County Commissioners have declared December as Winter Preparedness Month. They join together to ask residents to be ready for winter emergencies and encourage individuals, families, and businesses to take action and prepare for winter.

"I hope all residents will take time through this month to learn about the various resources available to them and ways they can prepare for winter," said Ketchum Mayor Hall. "As we know from the power outage last Christmas, disasters can come at any time, but through proactive cooperation we can be sure that the health and well-being of the Wood River Valley communities will be protected in the event of an emergency."

Blaine County Sheriff Femling added, "We live in a mountain environment and should plan for extended snow storms and chilling temperatures. Being prepared has made the difference for many people surviving the elements in an emergency situation. Everyone has a responsibility to be prepared for a minimum of three days. Every household, business, and institution needs an emergency plan for dealing with power outages or other storm-related emergencies."

Hailey Mayor Davis said, "Our Valley is renowned for supporting each other during emergencies. You may want to include elderly friends, relatives and neighbors who live alone in your emergency preparations. Neighbors helping neighbors strengthens our entire community."

The Mayors of Sun Valley, Ketchum, Hailey, Carey, and Bellevue, the Blaine County Commissioner Chairman, and Blaine County Sheriff have joined forces to spread the word on

community preparedness. Through this partnership, they hope to encourage every Wood River Valley resident to become better prepared to handle emergencies at work, at school and at home by following these simple steps:

### **1. Make an emergency supply kit and emergency communications plan**

Create an emergency kit that includes enough food, water, and medicine to take care of your family and pets for three days. Plan in advance what you will do to communicate in an emergency by developing a family communications plan. Family emergency plan templates, an emergency supply kit checklist and other resources are also available at [www.ready.gov](http://www.ready.gov) (English website) or [www.listo.gov](http://www.listo.gov) (Spanish website).

### **2. Get Informed**

Bookmark your local City emergency website or the Blaine County Emergency Preparedness website ([http://blainesherriff.com/public\\_safety.asp](http://blainesherriff.com/public_safety.asp)). Sign up for the E-911 Emergency Notification Program. From the Blaine County website (<http://www.blainecounty.org/>) click on E-911 “Emergency Notification” in the left-hand column and follow instructions. Note the variety of methods for notification available. Emergencies can happen anytime and to anyone – ready or not.

### **3. Take Preventative Measures**

You can do much to be prepared for winter conditions. For example, service your snow removal equipment and have rock salt on hand to melt ice on walkways. Make sure you have sufficient heating fuel; regular fuel sources may be cut off. Winterize your home. You can extend the life of your fuel supply at home by insulating walls and attics; caulk and weather-strip your home doors and windows; install storm windows; ensure pipes are insulated. Keep cars and other vehicles fueled and in good repair, with a winter emergency kit in each. Ensure your smoke detector and carbon monoxide detectors have fresh batteries.

**Take action today and be prepared!**

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**Mayor Christopher Koch - City of Bellevue**



**Mayor Richard L. Davis - City of Hailey**



**Mayor Randy Hall - City of Ketchum**



**Mayor Wayne Willich - City of Sun Valley**



**Chairman Lawrence Schoen – Blaine County Commissioners**



**Walt J. Femling – Blaine County Sheriff**



**Mayor Randy Patterson – City of Carey**