



## ***Winter Weather Reminders from Moon Township***

### **Stay Linked-in During Severe Winter Weather**

- **SwiftReach 911** – During February’s severe winter storms, the Moon Township Police Department used its SwiftReach 911 emergency notification system to keep residents updated through periodic phone calls. Residents who are registered for the SwiftReach service receive information in the event of an emergency, such as severe weather. The police department encourages residents to sign up for the service at <http://www.moonpolice.us/swiftreach.html>. **Both landline and cell phone numbers can be registered.**
- For non-emergency questions related to snow removal or other maintenance services, please call the Moon Township Office at **412-262-1700**. *Please do not call local emergency numbers for non-emergency concerns.*
- Tune in to Moon Community Access Television on Comcast channel 14 or Verizon channel 35 for local updates, including cancellations and delays.
- In the event of a power outage, keep a battery-powered or hand crank radio in your home to tune in to local news stations for information.
- To check road conditions for Interstates and some limited-access highways, call 511 or visit [www.511pa.com](http://www.511pa.com) for PennDOT updates.

### **Snow Shoveling Tips**

- Wear warm, loose-fitting clothing in several layers to protect against frostbite and hypothermia.
- Consider your physical condition and weather factors before beginning a strenuous shoveling effort.
- Check on neighbors and family members, especially the elderly and people with disabilities, who may need assistance.
- Never shovel snow from driveways and sidewalks into the street.
- Clear snow away from fire hydrants to make it easier for the fire department to locate the hydrant in case of emergency.
- Clear the catch basin in front of your home or business to allow proper drainage. Snow and ice build-up can block catch basins and lead to a risk of flooding.

# Snowplow Safety and Information



*The Moon Township Department of Public Works takes care of snow removal and winter maintenance for all township-owned roads, but not all roads in Moon Township meet that description. Here's a quick guide to find out where you can look for our plows:*

## **Moon Township plows:**

- **All township-owned roads**
- **The township has a contract to plow the following state and county roads:**
  - Beaver Grade Road
  - Brodhead Road
  - Thorn Run Road
  - Maple Street Extension
  - Montour Street Extension
  - Coraopolis Heights Road/ Hassam Road
  - Spring Run Road
  - Spring Run Road Extension
  - Ewing Road

## **Moon Township does *not* plow:**

- **The following state roads:**
  - Business Route 60
  - University Boulevard
  - Route 51
  - Musmanno Boulevard
  - McGovern Boulevard
  - Montour Run Road
  - Flaugherty Run Road
  - Moon Clinton Road
  - Hassam Road (between Montour Street Extension and Robinson Township)

**Private roads** – Please be advised that Moon Township is not responsible for plowing private roads, such as residential streets. In the event of an emergency, however, the township will ensure access for ambulances or police and fire department vehicles.

## **Snowplow Safety**

- Maintain a safe distance when following a truck plowing snow. Leaving a safe following distance cuts down on the risk of loose material kicking back on your vehicle and allows enough time to come to a safe stop if necessary.
- According to PennDOT, there is never a “safe” time to pass a snowplow. If you do decide to pass, however, use extreme caution. Drivers should remember that every truck has blind spots.
- Keep in mind that it is extremely difficult for snowplow drivers to see children in the street.
- Never allow children to build a snow fort on or near the street, and especially not in the mounds left by snowplows.

# CARBON MONOXIDE AWARENESS

The Moon Township Volunteer Fire Department urges area residents to remain vigilant about protecting their families against carbon monoxide poisoning as the region continues to face low temperatures.

## What is carbon monoxide?

Carbon monoxide (CO) is an odorless, tasteless and colorless gas that is produced whenever any fuel, such as gas, oil, kerosene, wood or charcoal is burned. If fuel-burning appliances are not used and maintained correctly or do not function properly, they can produce dangerous levels of CO. Exposure to CO is potentially deadly; high levels of the gas can kill a person in a matter of minutes.

## What can lead to carbon monoxide exposure?

- Leaving a car, truck or van engine running
  - An incorrectly vented or malfunctioning hot water heater, furnace, space heater, fireplace or kitchen cooking stove
  - Burning charcoal, alcohol or gasoline in an enclosed space
- Smoking a cigar, cigarette or pipe

## What are the symptoms of carbon monoxide poisoning?

Keep in mind that it is easy to mistake the symptoms of carbon monoxide poisoning for those of common illnesses, such as the flu or food poisoning.

- Headaches
- Dizziness
- Nausea
- Weakness
- Rapid heartbeat
- Blurry Vision
- Vomiting
- Disorientation
- Loss of consciousness
- Seizures
- Respiratory failure
- Cardiac arrest
- Coma

If you experience symptoms that you think could be from CO poisoning, get fresh air immediately, open doors and windows, turn off fuel-burning appliances and leave the house. Go to an emergency room and tell the physician that you suspect CO poisoning.

## How can carbon monoxide poisoning be prevented?

- Have a trained professional inspect fuel-burning appliances – including oil and gas furnaces, gas water heaters, gas stoves and ovens, gas dryers, gas or kerosene space heaters, fireplaces and wood stoves – at the beginning of every heating season.
  - Choose appliances that vent fumes to the outside whenever possible. Have them properly installed and maintain them according to manufacturers' instructions.
  - Read and follow all of the instructions included with any fuel-burning appliance.
  - Don't leave a vehicle running in a garage, even if the garage door to the outside is open. Fumes can build up very quickly in the garage and living area of a home.
  - Don't use a gas oven to heat the home, even for a brief time.
  - Never use a charcoal grill indoors, even in a fireplace.
  - Don't sleep in any room with an unvented gas or kerosene space heater.
  - If using an unvented gas or kerosene space heater is unavoidable, carefully follow the cautions that come with the device. Use the proper fuel and keep doors to the rest of the house open. Crack a window to ensure enough air for ventilation and proper fuel-burning.
  - Don't use gasoline-powered engines, such as snow blowers, in enclosed spaces.
- Don't ignore symptoms of CO poisoning, especially if more than person is feeling them.

## What is the proper use of a carbon monoxide detector?

The Carbon Monoxide Awareness Coalition of Pittsburgh and Allegheny County advises residents to use a carbon monoxide detector in their home to help alert themselves to increased CO levels. CO home alarms, however, are not fail-proof and should act as a backup for the proper use and maintenance of fuel-burning appliances.

Visit [www.cpsc.gov](http://www.cpsc.gov) for more information.



## 10 Things to Know About Driving in the Snow

1. If you don't absolutely have to travel during inclement weather, don't.
2. Keep your vehicle stocked with an emergency travel kit, including warm clothing, a first aid kit, snow shovel and cellphone charger. Click here for a complete list of supplies :  
<http://www.dot.state.pa.usInternet/pdNews.nsf/WinterHome?OpenFrameset>
3. Make sure someone knows where you are going and your expected arrival time. In the event of an emergency, someone will know where to look for you.
4. Remove snow and ice from the windows, mirrors, lights, hood and roof of your vehicle.
5. Listen to weather and travel advisories on the radio.
6. Keep your gas tank at least half full.
7. Slow down, increase following distance and avoid sudden stops and starts.
8. Turn headlights on anytime windshield wipers are in use. Use low beams in bad weather, especially during heavy or blowing snow.
9. If your vehicle gets stuck on a roadway, do not abandon it. Please call the Moon Township Police Department at **412-262-5000** for assistance.
10. Always wear your seat belt.

# Warming Center

## *Moon firefighters operate warming center during February snowstorm*

When the first flakes of snow started falling on Friday, Feb. 5, it took little more than a day to shroud the area in about 20 inches of snow. While many residents spent the following Saturday shoveling their driveways and excavating their vehicles, many households were left without power amid frigid temperatures.

When Allegheny County declared a state of emergency, the Moon Township Emergency Management Coordinator Chief Charles Belgie and the Moon Volunteer Fire Company mobilized to open a warming center for area residents who had lost power or heat in their homes due to the storm.

Moon Township volunteer fire fighters rotated shifts all day Saturday, Feb. 6, to provide warmth, food and shelter to about 20 Moon Township residents who arrived at the Carnot fire station on University Boulevard.

"Their concept of being a volunteer firefighter is to help regardless of the situation, whatever the need is," said Fire Marshall/EMA Coordinator Chief Charlie Belgie, Jr. "When people need help, that's what they're here for."

With food and phone access, the warming center was open to residents from about noon until 10:30 p.m., when the last resident left. Many people visited the station while they arranged to stay with friends or family members until their homes regained power, Chief Belgie said.

Although no one needed to remain at the warming center overnight, the fire company had the capability to provide cots and sleeping space if the need existed. The Township communicated information about the warming center to area residents through local news reports and by using the Moon Township Police Department's SwiftReach emergency notification system.

Typically, the Township operates a warming center or emergency shelter at the Public Safety Building - located at 1000 Beaver Grade Road - during times of emergency, including extreme weather conditions or flooding. The center was moved to the Carnot station, however, because the Public Safety Building lost heat and power during the storm. During other emergencies, residents should report to the Public Safety Building or check for updates through SwiftReach and local news reports.

The American Red Cross recommends that individuals go to a designated public shelter if their home loses power or heat during periods of extreme cold. **For information about open warming centers during winter storms, residents should call the Moon Township Police Department at 412-262-5000.**

# Winter Weather Reminders



## Winter Safety for Your Home

After a heavy snowfall, it's important to inspect your roof or deck to take stock of any potential structural hazards caused by a build-up of snow or ice. In addition to property loss, roof damage can lead to a sudden roof collapse and the possibility for injuries or fatalities.

**Roof and deck failures, however, rarely occur without some warning signs, including the following concerns:**

- Severe roof leaks
- Ripples or bends in steel supports, cracks in wooden members, rolled or bent metal purlins
- Cracks in walls or ceilings
- Loud popping or cracking sounds from the building structure
- Pooling of water on the roof in areas where it previously never accumulated
- Obvious deformities in structure frame or shape

Residents should contact an experienced contractor or their homeowner insurance company if they experience any of these problems or for more information.

## Know the Law When the Snow Starts to Fall

**Keep a snow scraper on hand.** According to Pennsylvania law, drivers can be ticketed for failure to remove snow and ice from their vehicle before driving. If snow or ice falls from a moving vehicle and strikes another vehicle or pedestrian causing death or serious injury, the driver is subject to fine ranging from \$200 to \$1,000. In addition, police officers may cite drivers for not clearing the windows of their vehicle, which incurs a \$25 fine.

**If you turn on your wipers, turn on your lights.** State law requires that headlights are turned on whenever windshield wipers are in use.

**Abandoned cars** on roadways may be towed under Pennsylvania law and also impede snow removal.

**Shoveling snow onto public roads is illegal.** Shovel snow away from the roadway and do not pile snow in

## FAQ

**Q: Why did a truck plow my driveway shut?**

**A:** Plowing crews attempt to leave driveways clear whenever possible, but this is not always feasible following heavy snowfall. Sometimes snowplows move through streets after homeowners already have cleared their driveways, depositing additional snow due to the fact that plows always push snow to the side of the street. Plowing typically begins with an initial pass to plow a vehicle-wide pathway followed by later sweeps for cleanup and widening.

In order to minimize this effect, residents can remove snow only to about 10 feet from the end of the driveway until the snowplows have completed their passes. Another option is to clear snow from the roadway in front of the driveway and pile it to the right of the driveway when facing the road. This reduces the chance of having the snow pushed back in front of the driveway.

**Q: What happens if my mailbox is knocked down?**

**A:** Township road crews do everything they can to avoid damaging property, but in the event that a resident mailbox is damaged or knocked down due to snowplowing, Moon Township will replace or repair it.

Visit PennDOT's winter weather Web site for more information about road maintenance and safety.  
<http://www.dot.state.pa.us/Internet/pdNews.nsf/>