

Subject: Residents urged: prepare early for winter : Buckinghamshire County Council News Release:

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Residents urged: prepare early for winter

Residents are being urged to prepare for winter as part of Buckinghamshire County Council's (BCC) support for this week's launch of the national 'Get Ready for Winter' campaign.

BCC is asking residents to start thinking now about how their families, communities and businesses could be affected through the winter months.

* Extra care must be taken when driving in winter conditions. Transport for Buckinghamshire has lots of advice and information on winter driving, snow routes and gritting at their webpage or follow their gritting decisions on twitter@tfbalerts

<http://www.transportforbucks.net/Winter-maintenance.aspx>

* Be a good neighbour. Check on elderly or vulnerable friends and neighbours who may be struggling in the cold. Icy roads and snow means they may not be able to get out and about; they may need help with shopping, clearing paths, getting a repeat prescription, or just need to see a friendly face.

If you are worried or concerned about how an elderly or vulnerable neighbour or friend is coping with the weather, contact our Adult Social Care team on 01296 383204 or 01296 383204 .

* Order fuel early. It is better to stock up on fuel before winter sets in. The early part of winter is when suppliers have spare delivery capacity and prices are likely to be lower than further into the winter period, when demand is high and delivery times are longer.

* Preparing for emergencies. Crises and emergencies can happen at any time. A booklet, 'Are you ready?', has been produced which provides clear, practical advice on preparing for an emergency. It also contains lots of valuable information and hints and tips on keeping healthy and well in winter, severe weather advice, what to do in the event of loss of power or water, as well as a section with useful emergency contact numbers for councils, utilities and other organisations.

To view or download a PDF version of the booklet visit the BCC website:

http://www.buckscc.gov.uk/bcc/emergency_planning/Emergency_Planning.page

The booklet is also available free from County and District Council reception areas.

Martin Phillips, Cabinet Member for Community Engagement, said: "We want to help people prepare for winter so that problems and emergency situations are kept to a minimum. But once winter sets in, it's important we all take a role in making sure everyone is safe and warm. For example, it only takes a few minutes to check if an elderly neighbour is coping.

"Where incidents or problems occur we'll be keeping people informed by facebook and twitter as well as on our website. Our aim is to ensure Bucks residents are as ready as they can be and by taking a few simple steps, the whole community can get ready for winter now."

The national 'Get Ready for Winter' campaign is run by Directgov in partnership with voluntary organisations and industry bodies. Its aim is to provide a central information point for the public and

raise awareness of the need to plan for winter, with information, advice and tips. Find out more about the Get Ready for Winter campaign by visiting the website at: www.direct.gov.uk/getreadyforwinter.