



## MASHPEE WAMPANOAG TRIBE EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT

### Home Heating Safety

The Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe Emergency Management Department shares heating tips to help maintain a fire-safe home this winter.



### Space Heater

Keep anything that can burn, such as bedding, clothing and curtains, at least 3 feet away from the heater.

Make sure the heater has an automatic shut-off, so if it tips over, it shuts off.

Turn heaters off when you go to bed or leave the room.

Plug portable heaters directly into outlets and never into an extension cord or power strip.

Only use portable heaters from a recognized testing laboratory.

### Fireplace

Keep a glass or metal screen in front of the fireplace to prevent embers or sparks jumping out.

Do not burn paper in your fireplace.

Put the fire out before you go to sleep or leave your home.

Put ashes in a metal container with a lid, outside, at least 3 feet from your home.

### Wood Stove

Make sure your wood stove is 3 feet from anything that can burn.

Do not burn paper in your wood stove.

Put the fire out before you go to sleep or leave your home.

Have your chimney inspected and cleaned each year by a professional.

### Furnace

Have your furnace inspected each year.

Keep anything that can burn away from the furnace.

### Kerosene Heater

Only use kerosene heaters from a recognized testing laboratory.

Make sure the heater has an automatic shut-off, so if it tips over, it shuts off.

Refuel your cooled heater outside.



## **MASHPEE WAMPANOAG TRIBE EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT**

### **Car Preparedness TIPS Before Winter arrives;**

The potential harshness of the winter as predicted for the months ahead emphasize the importance of making sure that your vehicle is prepared for cold and inclement weather. There are two aspects of vehicle preparedness during the winter months: Maintaining your vehicle to reduce the risk of an accident, breakdown, or other problems; and having the right equipment on hand to solve problems that arise.

The Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe Emergency Management Department explains some important things you should check when winterizing your vehicle. Most of these steps can be handled without assistance from a mechanic:

- **Antifreeze levels**
- **Batteries (terminals should be clean)**
- **Brakes (check for wear and brake fluid)**
- **Exhaust system, for leaks, clogs and crimped/otherwise damaged pipes**
- **Heater and defroster**
- **Head and tail lights, turn signals and hazard lights. Make sure they're working and are visible**
- **Engine oil levels. If the oil needs to be changed, [www.ready.gov](http://www.ready.gov) recommends using a lighter oil, which lubricates better at lower temperatures and doesn't congeal like heavy oils**
- **Thermostat**
- **Wear and condition of windshield wipers, as well as levels of windshield washer fluid. Use a winter formula of windshield washer fluid**
- **Tires. Make sure the tread is adequate and that you have snow tires or chains if required. Also make sure you have adequate tire pressure, including the spare**
- **Keep your gas tank as full as possible to prevent the fuel line from freezing**



## **MASHPEE WAMPANOAG TRIBE EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT**

There is more to vehicle preparedness than keeping your car properly maintained. If you're on the road and disaster strikes, having the right equipment and materials in your car can help you rescue yourself and others, help other rescue you, or allow you to safely remain in place if help cannot arrive immediately.

- **First-aid kit with up-to-date medications**
- **A shovel**
- **An ice scraper/small broom**
- **Cat litter or sand for better traction**
- **Jumper cables**
- **An AM/FM radio (battery or crank-operated)**
- **Emergency flares and/or reflective triangles**
- **Blankets and/or a sleeping bag**
- **Rope/tow chain**
- **Flashlights and batteries**
- **Snack foods and water**
- **Matches**

Keeping your car properly equipped and in top condition will reduce the risk of a serious winter weather-related incident on the road, as well as leave you better prepared to handle any emergencies that arise.

For more information or advice on winter preparedness, please contact Mashpee Wampanoag Emergency Management at;

*Emergency Management Director - Nelson Andrews Jr 508-477-5800 x 15*

*[nelson.andrewsjr@mwtribe-nsn.gov](mailto:nelson.andrewsjr@mwtribe-nsn.gov) or*

*Emergency Preparedness Specialist – Allyssa Hathaway 508-477-5800 x 13*

*[allyssa.hathaway@mwtribe-nsn.gov](mailto:allyssa.hathaway@mwtribe-nsn.gov)*