

Are you Ready for Winter?

Winter Challenges

The winter months can be challenging in Angus, bringing snow, ice, floods and high winds, which can in turn lead to transport and power disruption.

The Council and other partners will always try to deliver as many services as possible, no matter what we face, but in reality, these can also be impacted. However, there are a few simple steps you can take to be prepared and ready for disruption, improving your own personal or household resilience and safety.

You can find some excellent advice on www.Ready.Scot to help you get prepared, but here are some tips to get you started.

Things to do ahead of an event

You might not manage all of these things but even a few can help make you more resilient.

Sign Up for Flood Alerts and Be Prepared

Owners of private property are responsible for its protection during a flood, not the council or any other agency. You can get more help and advice here:

https://www.angus.gov.uk/flooding/flood_and_sandbag_advice_for_residents_and_businesses. If you know there is a flood risk, sign up to be notified when the area you live, work, or travel through is at risk of flooding at floodlinescotland.org.uk.

Sign up for severe weather warnings

Get severe weather warnings and sign up to Met Office alerts, including text alerts or via Twitter. The Met office also provide advice on preparing yourself, home, and vehicles for all weather conditions. Visit <https://www.metoffice.gov.uk/weather/warnings-and-advice> or #WeatherReady for more information.

Get onto the Priority Services Register (PSR)

The Priority Services Register is a free UK wide service which provides extra help to those that need it during power cuts or when there's an interruption to your electricity, gas or water supply. psrscotland.com

Save Our Web Address and Sign Up for Our Social Media

Angus Council's website www.angus.gov.uk contains useful information relating to potential winter disruptions. We also update our social media feeds regularly with the latest information, particularly during a weather event. Remember to follow us on <https://www.facebook.com/AngusCouncil>, twitter.com/AngusCouncil and www.instagram.com/anguscouncil and remember to allow notifications!

Download the Power Track app

SSEN Distribution looks after the cables that bring electricity to your home. Download SSEN's free Power Track app for local power cut information and updates or visit www.ssen.co.uk/powertrack.

Make a Plan – get prepared now

Noting down some names, numbers and details now so you have them in an emergency might be useful. Keep this somewhere safe. Go to the website www.Ready.scot where there is a page for Emergency Plans with a downloadable template which might be useful.

Have Supplies (if you can)

During an incident you may be homebound for an extended period, potentially without electricity. It is useful to make sure you have basic supplies in stock if you can. This could include canned and dried food, bottled water, medicines, torches, radio and batteries, a portable gas cooker (please use it safely because there is a carbon dioxide risk if used incorrectly), pet food, and warm clothes. Plan supplies for as long as possible, up to 72 hours if you are able to.

Check that you have a well-stocked first aid kit for home emergencies – for anything more severe seek medical advice. The NHS Inform website is a great place to go for detailed guidance ahead of time. Making sure the vulnerable in your community have enough repeat prescriptions on hand is important, but medicines go out of date so don't order more than you need.

The reality is that stock-piling food for a 'just in case' is difficult for most people and impossible for some. Perhaps you could consider making contact with neighbours and agreeing a street/local community plan, so you can work together to help each other in an emergency.

Find your utilities

Take the time to learn where utilities in your house are and how they operate. It may sound obvious, but it is significantly easier to locate your fuse box, gas meter, or mains water supply tap in the light, than during a power cut. These might need to be switched off, during a flood event for example.

Check your car, and your driving

It is important to ensure your vehicle is ready for winter. Make sure these areas are topped up or checked: **F**uel, **O**il, **R**ubber, **C**oolant, **E**lectrics, **S**creen wash and wipers. It is also advisable to carry a shovel, boots, spare clothes and some snacks.

If you have to travel during adverse weather, please ensure that you always drive to the conditions, not the speed limit and that your vehicle is clear of all snow and ice when you set off and be aware of black ice.

Please report potholes, streetlight or any other road/street issues you come across to us via our website here:

https://www.angus.gov.uk/roads_parking_and_travel/roads_and_pavements/report_a_pot_hole_street_lighting_or_other_roadstreet_issue

Please follow [Transport Scotland](#) and the [Met Office](#) for the latest transport and weather information.

Think about your neighbours

A resilient community is one where households look out for each other and help each other in times of need. You may be able to help your neighbour with an important job to prepare for winter, or your neighbour may be able to help you.

If the lights go out – a check list

If you have prepared the above, you will be in with a better chance of being resilient in an emergency.

- Stay home or get home - You are safest near to home unless you need emergency care. If you are out, try to get home as safely as you can.
- If you are flooded – go, as safely as you can, to a pre-agreed 'safe place' and let others know you are ok.
- Look out for each other - The council or other service providers might be unable to help out for a few hours, or even a few days, so please check regularly on your neighbours and pool your resources.
- Stay safe – make sure you are aware of the risk posed from candles or portable stoves in your home and be alert.
- Stay healthy – and not just your physical health, maybe having a few board games to play or a deck of cards might help keep you mentally alert? It could get boring fast.
- Listen for advice – local radio stations will be broadcasting advice to your area, so often people will get into the car to listen in (at the same time also charging devices) or you might be able to get your hands on a wind-up or battery radio.
- If you can, have a recharging pack ready charged to extend the life of mobiles

Emergency Numbers	
Angus Council ACCESSLine	03452 777 778
Emergency services:	999
Non-emergency:	101
NHS24:	111
Loss of power:	105
Gas emergencies:	0800 111 999
Scottish Water:	0800 077 8778
Floodline Scotland:	0345 988 1188
Insurance company number:	
Insurance policy numbers:	
GP:	
Gas supplier:	
Electricity supplier:	
Plumber:	
Local Radio Station:	
Schools/colleges:	
Carers/childminder:	
Vet:	
Work contact:	
Agreed safe place (if flooded out):	
Community Hub:	

Name and number of people you will tell when safe:	
Council Housing Repairs	
Social Care	
Adult Protection Concern	
Child Protection Concern	
Citizen Advice Scotland	0800 028 1456