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### **Not Too Early to Start Preparing For Winter Weather**

PIERRE, S.D. – It certainly has not seemed like winter yet, but officials of the South Dakota Office of Emergency Management (OEM) say that doesn't mean winter season won't eventually arrive.

Wednesday, Oct. 25, is Winter Weather Awareness Day in South Dakota. The day serves as a reminder that, sooner or later, winter weather will be here.

"We always know that winter weather can occur at any time, but we just don't know when," says Tina Titze, director of the Office of Emergency Management. "This is a good time to start planning now for the cold temperatures and snow. By preparing now, you can be ready if you have to deal with power outages, blocked roads and being forced to stay at home for several days."

Among the preparation tips OEM suggests are:

\*\*\* Monitor local weather forecasts when winter storms are approaching;

\*\*\* Make sure you have enough supplies, including food, prescription medication and batteries, if you get stranded at home;

\*\*\* When traveling during the winter, make sure you have a winter survival kit in your vehicle and check road conditions before you leave.

For more on making winter weather preparations, check out the new OEM winter weather guide at <http://breary.sd.gov/seasonal/seasonal.aspx>.

OEM's mascot Tommy the Turtle is featured in a book for children regarding winter preparedness. It is available at <http://breary.sd.gov/docs/Winter%20Weather%20Book.pdf>.

The Office of Emergency Management is part of the South Dakota Department of Public Safety.