

## Inside This

### Issue:

Safe Driving Tips 2

Preventing Frozen Pipes 2

Avoid Slipping on Snow & Ice 3

How To Deter Crime 3

Crossword Puzzle 4

## Home Fire Prevention

Home fires are more prevalent in the fall and winter months than any other season according to the U.S. Fire Administration. Three common seasonal fires include:

- Oven or stove fires from an increase in cooking,
- Heat related fires from decorations being too close to a heat source, such as a candle, fireplace or space heater, and
- Electrical fires from damaged cords or overloaded outlets.

Below are cold weather safety tips and general fire safety reminders to help prevent some of these common fires.



### Cold Weather Fire Safety

- Keep candles away from decorations, plants, and other combustible items.
- Inspect holiday lights prior to use and discard lights with damaged wires.
- Avoid overloading outlets.
- When leaving the house or going to bed, unplug lights and blow out all candles and incense.
- Use a tree stand that will hold a gallon of water or more, and always keep the tree watered.
- Remove and recycle used trees from your home promptly after the holiday.
- Always set a timer when cooking to prevent food from burning.

### Fire Safety

- Never remove batteries from a smoke detector. If a fire does occur, the alarm could save your life and help minimize any damaged caused by the fire.
- Find the location of fire extinguishers and exits routes before you need to use them.
- In case of an oven fire, turn-off the heat or power source and keep the oven door closed to prevent the flames from burning you or your clothes.
- Always set a timer when cooking to prevent food from burning.
- Never place a charging battery or electrical item on the carpet as it could cause a fire to start.

## Safe Winter Driving

Whether commuting to work or driving to the mail box, stay safe on the road during severe winter weather with the following safe winter driving tips.

- Avoid sudden stops and turns since the roads tend to be more slick in the winter.
- Do not use cruise control when driving on a wet or slippery surface.
- Never warm up a vehicle in an enclosed area, such as a garage, which could trap carbon monoxide.
- Store emergency items in your vehicle, such as blankets, gloves, hats, food, water, necessary medication and any emergency phone numbers.
- Keep your tires properly inflated and remember that good tread on your tires is essential to safe winter driving.

## Preventing Frozen Pipes

Frozen pipes are known to cost hundreds of thousands of dollars in repairs annually across the United States. Since water expands when it freezes, pipes that freeze are likely to break or crack which causes water leaks and floods. If outside temperatures fall below 32 degrees Fahrenheit, the following winterization tips can prevent pipe freezes and floods.

- Maintain an indoor temperature of 55 degrees or higher at all times during freezing weather.
- Open closets and cabinet doors to allow warm air to ventilate plumbing fixtures and surrounding spaces.
- Open all faucets, including hot and cold, and open sink stoppers to allow a thin trickle of water to flow through the lines. This can prevent excessive water pressure from building up if there is ice accumulation in the pipe.
- Contact the leasing office if you have any questions about when or how to implement these winterization tips.



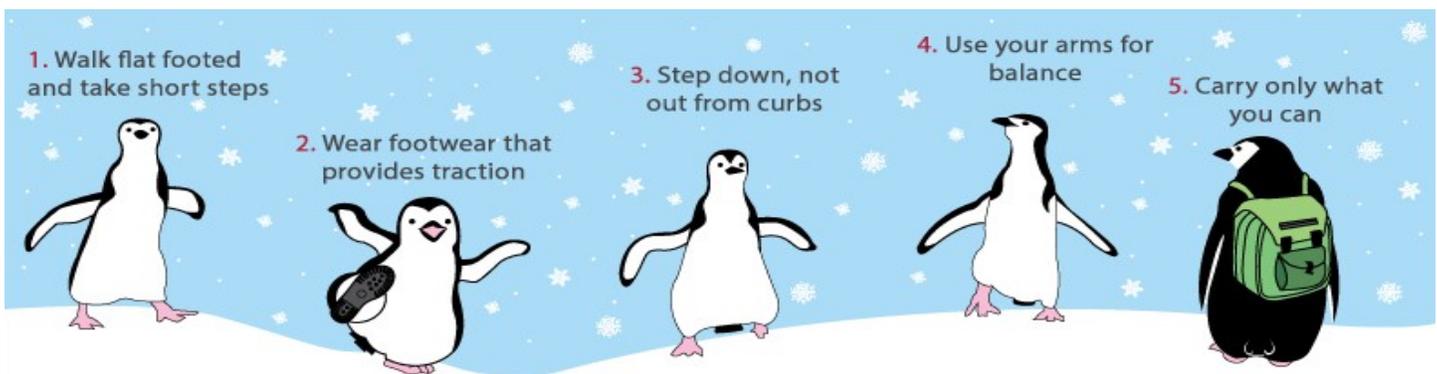
expressnews.com

“Since water expands when it freezes, pipes that freeze are likely to break or develop cracks.”

# Avoid Slipping on Snow & Ice

Winter is known as the most slippery time of year because of the mix of high precipitation and low temperatures. Below are tips that can reduce the risk of getting hurt when you have to go outside in these conditions.

- Stay on designated walking paths and avoid routes that have not been cleared of snow or that appear to be glazed over.
- If you notice an area of snow or ice accumulation, let the management office know.
- Be alert for black or transparent ice, particularly in the days following a storm.
- Lightly apply ice melt to frequently used walkways.
- Be extra careful getting in and out of vehicles as snow tends to accumulate between vehicles.
- When entering a building, remove as much snow and water from your shoes as you can.
- Tread safely and walk like a penguin, as shown below, to maintain balance on slippery surfaces.



## How to Deter Crime

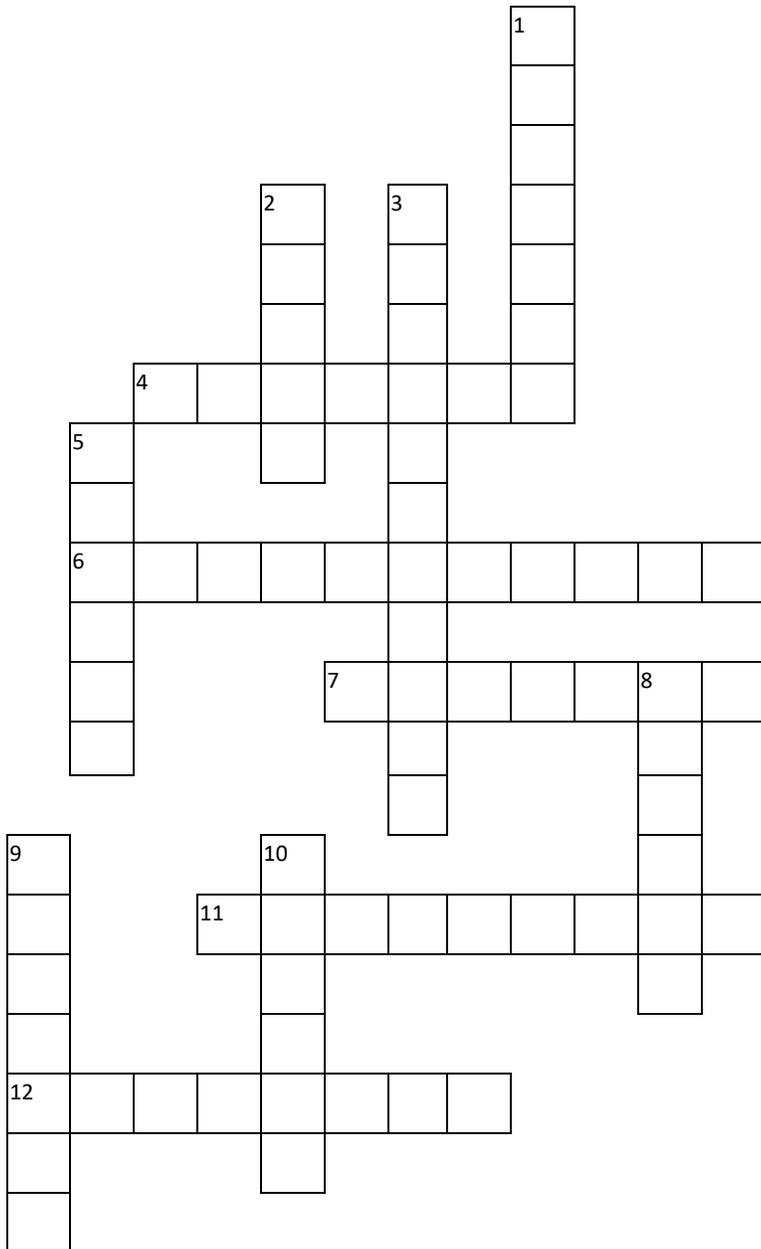
Nearly half of all home burglaries are committed without force — that is, through unlocked doors and windows! The following behaviors can help reduce the chance of these criminal occurrences.

- Always lock windows and doors to your home and vehicle.
- Get to know your neighbors; they can be your eyes and ears while you are away.
- Call the police if you see suspicious activity.
- All valuable items in your car should be in a locked glove box or trunk, never in plain sight where perpetrators can see them.
- Notify the leasing office if any lights go out at your apartment community.



# Test your safety knowledge!

Read the Safety Awareness Newsletter to discover answers to the crossword puzzle.



## DOWN

1. Always discard \_\_\_ cords.
2. Always set a \_\_\_ when cooking.
3. Avoid \_\_\_ outlets.
5. Avoid \_\_\_ stops when driving in winter weather conditions.
8. Windows and doors should always be \_\_\_ to deter crime.
9. Open these during freezing weather to prevent build up from an ice blockage.
10. Tree stands should hold this much water.

## ACROSS

4. Avoid walking paths that have not been \_\_\_ of snow.
6. Keep candles away from \_\_\_ and other combustible material.
7. \_\_\_ apply ice melt to frequently used walkways.
11. To deter theft, never leave these in plain sight in your car or home.
12. Never warm up a vehicle in this type of area.