



## Proclamation

**Whereas**, winter is a season of unparalleled beauty in New York State, of glistening landscapes and the snow-capped mountains of the Adirondacks and the Catskills, and it also brings annual cultural events and recreational activities such as skiing, skating, snowshoeing and sledding; and

**Whereas**, while there is plenty to do both indoors and out, New Yorkers are urged to think of their safety and that of their loved ones and to be aware of the hazardous weather conditions that traditionally occur during winter – snow and ice storms, blizzards and nor'easters; we need only to look back to last December's ice storm when the furies of nature left many in the dark and brought our transportation network to a standstill; and

**Whereas**, if we take time now to prepare for the months ahead, hazardous weather events should not disrupt our daily lives and activities; New Yorkers are strongly encouraged to have a family emergency plan in place, to know what to do and where to go during an emergency, and to stock up on emergency supplies in the event they are "snowed in" by a storm or they experience an electric power failure due to severe weather; and

**Whereas**, the residents of the Empire State are urged to take several easy, common sense steps in these weeks before the first potential snowfall: install smoke and carbon monoxide detectors in their residences; inspect and service furnaces, woodstoves and chimney flues to ensure they are in good working order; operate and maintain all alternate heating sources according to manufacturer's directions and with proper ventilation; perform a "winter checkup" of all vehicles and snow blowers; and, become mentally alert and prepared for winter driving conditions in order to enhance safety during the approaching winter months; and

**Whereas**, they are further encouraged to sign up for NY-ALERT, New York State's all-hazards, web-based alert and notification system, to receive emergency information, by visiting [www.nyalert.gov](http://www.nyalert.gov) on the web; and

**Whereas**, as the agencies of the New York State Disaster Preparedness Commission work in unison with the National Weather Service, local governments, volunteer organizations and the private sector to provide optimum assistance and protection to our citizens in the upcoming winter months, citizens are also encouraged to be prepared and make use of available resources, activities and programs so they can enjoy winter in the Empire State with a greater sense of comfort and well-being;

**Now, Therefore**, I, David A. Paterson, Governor of the State of New York, do hereby proclaim October 26-31, 2009 as

## WINTER WEATHER AWARENESS WEEK



**G i b e n** under my hand and the Privy Seal of the State at the Capitol in the City of Albany this twenty-first day of October in the year two thousand nine.

*David A. Paterson*

Governor

*Lance Schwartz*  
Secretary to the Governor