

# The DPH Bulletin

From the Delaware Division of Public Health

December 2017



Georgetown in 2010. DEMA photo.

## Prepare now for winter hazards

Winter weather can bring extreme cold, snow, ice, and frigid winds. These conditions can cause power outages, hazardous driving conditions, and possibly the need to shelter-in-place. Prepare now with these recommendations from the Delaware Emergency Management Agency (DEMA):

- Have a house disaster kit that includes rock salt or sand for walkways; snow shovels and other snow removal equipment; and cold-weather clothing and blankets for warmth. Review a list of disaster kit contents at [PrepareDE.org](http://PrepareDE.org). Use stored food before it expires and replace it with new non-perishable food.
- Hire a contractor to check the structural stability of roofs to sustain unusually heavy weight from the accumulation of snow, or water, if drains on flat roofs do not work.
- For vehicles, keep gas tanks at least half full. Have a mechanic check antifreeze levels, the battery and ignition system, oil (heavier oils congeal in the cold and do not lubricate well); brakes, tires, windshield wipers and fluid, lights (including hazard lights); and the heater, defroster, and thermostat. It is also important to check for leaks in the exhaust system because carbon monoxide is deadly.
- Vehicles should have an emergency supply kit including jumper cables, spare tire, flares, sand or kitty litter, snow shovel and brush, ice scraper, tow rope, cell phone charger, first aid kit, flashlight, warm clothing and blankets, and water and non-perishable snacks.

For more information, visit [PrepareDE.org](http://PrepareDE.org).



DELAWARE HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES  
Division of Public Health

## Rescue training benefits first responders, animal welfare advocates

When a horse is stuck in mud, how do you get it out? How do you safely evacuate horses, cows, and other livestock during a stable fire?

First responders and animal welfare advocates learned large animal rescue techniques at a training hosted by the Delaware Animal Response (DAR) team. DAR responders, large animal veterinarians, county technical rescue teams, and fire department members participated in the emergency training held at the Delaware State Fairgrounds in Harrington, DE. The training covered entrenchment and mud rescues, trailer overturns, a simulated barn fire, and a night Search and Rescue operation.

DAR Coordinator Karen Clark of the Office of Animal Welfare organized the training. The Delaware Equine Council and the Delaware Farm Bureau partnered with speakers and logistics.



First responders often direct large animal rescues such as stable fires and horses stuck in mud. The Office of Animal Welfare secured a grant to host a training that taught large animal rescue and evacuation skills. Horse mannequins were used to simulate removing a horse from an overturned trailer and another trapped in a trench. Photo by Natalie Osorio, The Delaware State Fair.

## DPH invites readers to complete online survey about this newsletter

The Division of Public Health (DPH) asks its community e-newsletter readers to complete a customer satisfaction survey. Readers are asked to complete the survey by January 31 by visiting this link:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/6PQXGGC>