

COMMUNITY CORNER

Families should prepare ahead of time for severe winter weather

By Col. William Clark
GARRISON COMMANDER

Winter weather will soon be upon us.

This could mean extreme cold conditions and heavy snowfall that can be debilitating and dangerous.

Winter storms can affect everyone, even those with experience with severe winter weather.

The best defense against winter-weather hazards is preparation. Now is the time to think about basic needs you, your family and your pets will need in the event of an emergency.

Do you know how to prepare for a winter storm? First and foremost, be aware of the risk of severe winter weather in your area. Then, ensure you are

informed and have prepared your home.

Stay informed and know winter storm terminology.

- **Freezing rain:** Rain that freezes when it hits the ground. Ice may coat roads, walkways, trees and power lines.

- **Sleet:** Rain that freezes into ice pellets before it reaches the ground. Sleet can cause moisture on roads and walkways to freeze.

- **Winter storm watch:** Weather conditions are favorable for development of a winter storm.

- **Winter storm warning:** A winter storm is occurring or



Col. Clark

will occur soon.

- **Blizzard warning:** Considerable amounts of snow with sustained winds or frequent gusts up to 35 mph are expected to prevail for at least three hours. Visibility is reduced to less than a quarter mile.
- **Frost/freeze warning:** Below-freezing temperatures are expected.

PREPARE YOUR HOME

- **Make sure your home is properly insulated.** Caulk and weather strip doors and windows.

- **To prevent water damage from burst pipes,** keep your home's temperature above freezing if you are away.

- **To slow the accumulation of snow and ice on your driveway and outside steps,** pretreat these surfaces by spreading a

small amount of rock salt.

- **Consider what to use for emergency heat** in case the electricity goes out.

Although it may seem a little early to prepare for winter weather, now is really the perfect time to start, and with October deemed Severe Winter Weather Awareness Month, why not start now? Ready Army, the Army's preparedness program and campaign, teaches us to get a kit, make a plan and be informed in order to protect ourselves from any bad scenario. For winter weather this means:

GET A KIT

Automobile

- Keep your car's gas tank full for emergency use.
- Keep supply items like sand, snow shovel, candles,

lighter or waterproof matches, blanket, flashlight, small radio, extra batteries and more.

Home

- **Water:** Have at least one gallon per person per day for at least three days.

- **Food:** Have nonperishable food for at least three days.
- **Have prescription medications and medical equipment/care aids ready.**
- **Think about pets supplies,** if applicable. These include food, water, medication, leash, travel case and documents.

MAKE A PLAN

- Severe snow and ice

- Power outages

- Who to call, where to go

- Plan for pets

BE INFORMED

- Weather radio

- AtHOC sign up
- Social media
- Local radio and TV
- Fort Riley Ready Army website at www.rileyarmy.mil/UnitPage.aspx?unit=ReadyArmy

The more you know about what to do in an emergency, the more confident and secure you will feel in your ability to manage through a disaster.

For more information, call Chris Hallenbeck at the Fort Riley Emergency Management Office at 785-240-0400.

If you would like to comment on this article, or suggest a topic for a future Community Corner, email usarmy.riley.incom.mbx.post-newspaper@mail.mil.

Guidelines, tips will help job seekers in quest for employment

By Calun Reede
1ST INF. DIV. POST

Job seekers planning to attend the annual Fall Job Fair at 4 p.m. Oct. 23 at Riley's Conference Center can be well-prepared by following a few simple guidelines.

"There are people who simply attend a job fair, and then there are others who really work the room," said Jeff Reede, program manager, Employment Readiness Program, Army Community Services.

Reede gave four basic guide-

lines for a better job fair experience: Research the company prior to attending; target your resume; dress for success; and prepare a "30-second commercial."

Researching potential job employers puts one at an advantage over other candidates. Having an objective statement candidates will stand out among others.

A list of all employers participating in the job fair can be found at <http://rileymwr.com/main/?p=226809>.

Researching companies also

can help job seekers tailor resumes.

Job seekers need more than just a federal resume and a private sector resume, Reede said. Participants should attend a job fair with multiple versions of their resume and should tailor them for specific companies. Having an objective statement mention a specific company's name, for example, instead of using a generic statement is one way to tailor a resume, he said.

"(It is) an employer's market not a job-seeker's market," Reede said. "You need to be tar-

geting your resume for different employers."

One of the more common mistakes people make is presenting only one "picture" of themselves to multiple employers that have different needs, he said.

"When you're in an employer's market as a job seeker you need to be addressing the particular skills that they are looking for," he added, "that's why people come in with multiple versions of their resume."

Once resumes have been tailored to specific employers, attendees also need to consider the

proper attire for the event.

"I think one of the biggest things that people fail to do is dress for success," Reede said. "That's still the No. 1 mistake that people will make at a job fair."

According to the Washington State University's website, there are some general guidelines to follow for attire. Some recommendations include selecting fragrances, jewelry or hairstyles that will not distract from a professional image. Apparel should also be clean, neatly pressed and remain in place when sitting or

walking. Keep the clothing style simple, and remember less is more.

More helpful guidelines for proper attire can be found at <http://andw.wsu.edu/research/dti/tips/>. "How you dress is not going to get you a job, but how you dress can sure prevent you from even getting an interview," Reede said. "If you go up to a job fair in blue jeans, to me, you're putting yourself behind others."

The job market is a competitive one, Reede said.

See TIPS, page 12