



## **MONTEZUMA COUNTY, COLORADO**

# **EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS NEWSLETTER**

February 1, 2010

Let it snow, let it snow, let it snow!

We've certainly gotten our share in the past few weeks. The bad side is that this kind of weather plays havoc with emergency services in ways that citizens might not imagine. The good side is that our moisture levels are at around 140% for the month, which bodes well for wildfire season.

It's important to be prepared in several ways when severe winter weather hits...and although many of you have seen this before, we all tend to become complacent when we have mild winters, like 2009.

If you use propane as a primary heating fuel, check your tank levels regularly, not just when a storm is predicted. Fuel deliveries are seriously hampered by bad roads as well as spikes in demand when the weather turns cold.

Keep fuel tanks in your vehicles topped off. All fuels have a high water content. When your tanks are low, the water which naturally collects in the tank can begin to freeze, which means your car or truck won't start.

Check your food and medical supplies, particularly if you have prescription medication which you take regularly. If your pharmacist and insurance will allow, purchase additional doses to have on hand in case travel becomes difficult.

Keep tabs on your neighbor. Watch out for each other, particularly if you live in isolated areas. Check in by phone with your neighbors as least once a day if you can. Weather impacts phone service, so you may have to check on each other in person. Every winter the news services carry tragic stories about folks who die because no one looked after them during bad weather. Don't let this happen to you!

Stay informed. Buy a NOAA weather radio; check the National Weather Service on-line for weather updates and alerts. And refer to my Facebook page, 'Montezuma OEM' for alerts and updates during severe weather.

Stay warm, stay informed and be prepared!

*Doug*