

November 19, 2018

Ready or not 2018 is winding down, Thanksgiving is just a few days away and then we all know what happens, Christmas and the holidays. It seems like there is no break after Thanksgiving one holiday rolls right into another and of course winter sets in and the cycle begins all over with 2019.

But the next month is a perfect time to reminisce about 2018 and all that has transpired during the year. Time for family, dinners, get togethers with friends and being thankful for all you have or expect to have in the coming year.

2019 is a very pivotal point, we go from the teens to the 20's, hard to believe 2020 is just a year away. Who knows what the 20's will bring. 100 years ago the 20's were known as the roaring 20's with a country coming out of a world war and the promise of a very bright and fruitful future. Little did they know in the following 20 years the country would go through a great depression and be faced with another world war. But the future is something we can not predict, with any great accuracy.

So I want to talk about something we can predict and prepare for our usual and very reliable winter. You know the season when the rain comes and often stays, the rivers rise and snow blankets our coastal mountains. This is the time of year when our outdoor activities slow down and indoor projects become the norm.

It is also a time of year to prepare for those winter months. Many know how inconvenient it is when you are not prepared for the struggles associated with our winter and early spring months here on the north coast.

Simple things such as having necessities available in the event of major road closures, such as we had in the past few years. At one point last year Hwy 36 was the only road open into and out of Humboldt County.

So it is a good idea to have some extra canned and dried food available to sustain you and your family for a few days. Bottled water is also great to have on hand in the event of outages. If you have a generator make sure it is serviced and ready to use along with fuel for the generator in the event of a prolonged power shortage, which has happened on too many occasions.

It is also important to make sure your vehicle is prepared as well. Have an emergency kit in your car in the event of being stuck in a road closure or vehicle malfunction, also make sure your spare tire is serviceable. Nothing is more disappointing than to have a flat and then find that the spare is flat as well. Have an extra jacket or blanket in the trunk or behind the seat. Water and some food would be a good idea along with emergency flares or reflectors and a flashlight.

It is also a good idea to let someone know if you are going into the backcountry along with the location and your anticipated time of return. Make sure your cell phone is charged and that you have a way of keeping it charged.

A little preparation can make a world of difference in keeping you and your family safe, warm and dry this winter. This has been Mike Downey for Community Comment.