



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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### **Cold Temperatures Cause for Concern**

**(FAIRBANKS, Alaska)** – With extreme winter temperatures all across the state, and in some areas dropping to minus forty and fifty degrees below zero, the Division of Alaska State Troopers would like to remind the public of the dangers of exposure. If you are venturing outside be sure to dress for the weather. On two separate occasions during the past week, AST in Fairbanks received calls to help locate missing persons who had ventured outside while unprepared for the extreme weather. Both individuals were ultimately located in good condition but both incidents could easily have ended in tragedy.

This is also a good opportunity to remind the public to carry appropriate emergency supplies in their vehicles when traveling. Getting stuck in the ditch in temperatures below zero can become a potentially life and death situation if you are unprepared. Always carry extra winter clothing in your vehicle including blankets, sleeping bags, extra gloves, hats and boots, non-perishable food items and an emergency medical kit as well as a flashlight and some road flares. When walking, skiing, hunting and snow machining, be sure to dress in layers with adequate insulation. Remember, consuming alcohol in the cold can make cold injuries more likely and can impair judgment.

If someone you know goes outdoors in these current conditions and you are worried about their well being, or if they do not return when expected, report them missing immediately. If you are stuck outside and worried about your well being, call for assistance immediately -- don't wait until you or someone else has developed a cold weather injury. If you are planning on a recreational outing, share your plans with others -- let them know where you are going, what supplies you have and what time they should contact law enforcement if you haven't returned. The sooner AST knows there is a problem, the faster we can begin searching for missing individuals.

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