

Careers Behind the Storm

Someone is already working while the rest of us sleep.



A winter storm is moving in overnight. Read what's happening at each hour. Use the word bank to write the career that responds. Then think about what would happen without them.

Word Bank

Atmospheric Scientist

Heavy Equipment Operator

Firefighter

Pipe-Fitter

Registered Nurse

High School Principal

Senior Director of Emergency Management

Warehouse Associate

●	2 a.m.	Freezing rain is forecast to start within hours. Who warns the public?	Career: _____
●	4 a.m.	Trees are down and a main road is blocked. Who clears it?	Career: _____
●	5 a.m.	A car has slid off the highway and the driver is trapped. Who rescues them?	Career: _____
●	6 a.m.	A frozen pipe bursts and floods a building. Who repairs it?	Career: _____
●	7 a.m.	A hospital needs staff to stay through the storm. Who keeps caring for patients?	Career: _____
●	8 a.m.	Students and staff are arriving at school after the storm. Who leads the building and keeps everyone safe?	Career: _____
●	Noon	Shelters open for people without heat. Who coordinates them?	Career: _____
●	Evening	Stores are running low on food and supplies. Who gets more to the shelves?	Career: _____

Step 2 What If They Didn't Show Up?

Pick two careers. For each, write one thing that would go wrong.

Step 3 Say Thank You

Write a two-sentence thank-you note to one of these workers. Then find that career's [Career Profile](#) in Pathful. What would you need to learn to do it?

Educator Page

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Time

35 to 40 minutes

Grades

9 to 12

Best For

Winter weather weeks, or a Public Safety or Transportation lesson

What Students Will Do

Students read a timeline of a winter storm and name the career that responds at each hour. Then they explain what would go wrong without two of those careers and write a thank-you note.

Before You Start

- Print one page per student. The educator page is for you only.
- Roles and titles vary by community. Adjust the language to match yours.
- Make sure students can log in to Pathful for Step 3.

How to Run It

1. (3 to 5 min) Read the scenario. Point out the word bank and explain each career is used once.
2. (10 to 15 min) Students read each hour of the storm and write the career that responds.
3. (5 to 7 min) Partner check. Students explain any answer that differs.
4. (6 to 10 min) Step 2: students pick two careers and write one thing that would go wrong if they did not show up.
5. (6 to 10 min) Step 3: students write a two-sentence thank-you note to one worker, then find that career in Pathful and write what they would need to learn.

Answer Key

2 a.m. Atmospheric Scientist. 4 a.m. Heavy Equipment Operator. 5 a.m. Firefighter. 6 a.m. Pipe-Fitter. 7 a.m. Registered Nurse. 8 a.m. High School Principal. Noon, Senior Director of Emergency Management. Evening, Warehouse Associate. Accept reasonable alternatives with a clear explanation, for example a paramedic at 5 a.m.

Discussion Prompts

- Which of these jobs would you not notice unless something went wrong?
- Which require staying calm under pressure?
- Which require training before the storm, not during it?

Support and Extend

- Short on time? Do the timeline and Step 2 in class and assign Step 3 as homework.
- Support: let students match the easiest clues first, then work through the rest.
- Extend: students write the same timeline for a different emergency, such as a heat wave or flood.