

Winter Entrapment

Suddenly, you are laying on the cold hard concrete, and that small amount of snow that is underneath your body starts to melt and seeps cold water through your clothes. You try to get your arms and legs to move, but they are not strong enough, or not listening to what your brain is telling them to do. By now your feet and hands are starting to burn from the cold. All you can see is the concrete you are now laying on and your breath as it rises into the winter air. You scream for help-you are alone, and you are stranded. This is the foreseeable reality for anyone who is physically challenged or confined to a wheelchair. The everyday freedom of going for walks that can be enjoyed in summer is now a danger in winter. The wheelchair that has become your freedom, and your legs, operates on similar principles as a motor vehicle. There are a few differences however, like the fact that most electric wheelchairs don't come with heat or lights. When the tires meet a pile of snow those tires either stop dead in their tracks, or they slip. A feeling of being trapped comes in every year with the first snowflake. Not only is that mobility gone, but now the independence of taking yourself out for a walk is also. Imagine not being able to climb into your car and go for a drive, or go outside for a walk. This is the frustration, and a fear the winter sends shivering down some individual's spines. This is the reality of winter entrapment.