



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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WACO FIRE DEPARTMENT URGES RESIDENTS TO PRIORITIZE SAFETY

WACO, TEXAS (January 10, 2024) — As temperatures drop and icy conditions prevail, the Waco Fire Department emphasizes the importance of safety precautions to prevent accidents and ensure the well-being of our community. We urge residents to prioritize safety and take necessary precautions to safeguard against the potential challenges posed by severe weather conditions.

Stay Informed

- Monitor weather forecasts regularly for updates on storm progression.
- Follow official advisories and alerts issued by local authorities.

Be Prepared

- Have essential supplies, including food, water, medications, and first aid items.
- Ensure heating systems are in good working condition and have alternative heating sources available.

Travel Safety

- Limit travel during the winter storm. Stay home unless it is absolutely necessary to travel.
- If driving is unavoidable, equip vehicles with winter tires and carry an emergency kit.

Protect Pipes

- Insulate all exposed pipes to prevent freezing and potential bursts.
- Keep faucets dripping to maintain water flow and prevent freezing.

Protect Pets

- Bring your pets inside. If unable to bring them indoors, make sure to provide shelter to protect them from the freezing temperatures.

Icy Conditions

- Exercise caution when walking or driving on icy surfaces.
- Clear walkways and driveways to prevent slips and falls.
- Keep a supply of ice melt or sand to enhance traction on sidewalks.

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Heating Safety

- Ensure working smoke detectors are installed throughout your home.
- Natural Gas: Regularly inspect gas appliances for leaks and ensure proper ventilation.
- Fireplaces: Use a sturdy screen to prevent sparks and ashes from escaping.
- Space Heaters: Keep them at least three feet away from combustible materials, pets, and children.
- Propane Heaters: Use outdoors only and follow manufacturer guidelines.
- Avoid using electric or gas ovens or stoves for home heating.

Interim Fire Chief Kevin McGee shared, "Preparedness is key during winter storms. By taking these measures, residents can enhance their safety and resilience in the face of challenging weather conditions."

For more information and to see up-to-date notifications, visit:

Winter Weather Tips: waco-texas.com/news/winter-weather-tips

Waco Fire Department Twitter: twitter.com/WacoTXFire

City of Waco Facebook: facebook.com/cityofwaco

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