



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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City of Waco Responds to Winter Weather

(February 14, 2021)

City staff are responding to citizen needs during this time of extreme winter weather and are anticipating a long period of sub-freezing temperatures and potentially historic snowfall. Listed below are efforts City staff is using to help protect the safety and lives of residents:

Public Works Streets & Traffic: Since Thursday morning at 4:30am Street crews have been busy sanding bridges and steep streets throughout the city as well as setting up signs for street closures due to hazardous conditions. Included are: Lake Shore Drive from Mt. Carmel to Hilltop and New Road bridge leading into Beverly Hills as well as the 17th Street bridge over the railroad track. Eleven dedicated staff continue to work through the day and night.

Police and Fire continue to respond to emergency calls for service. Calls for minor wrecks where there are no injuries can be handled by both parties exchanging insurance and drivers license information to free the officers for emergency calls. The number of traffic accidents has been small thanks to citizens staying home and heeding the cold weather warnings and not driving or being outdoors that could result in an accident and call for service.

Waco Fire reminds everyone to not bring gas grills or other flame sources into a house or garage to provide heat. Also, never use an extension cord on an electric space heater. If backup generators are used, never run a generator indoors and always place the generator far enough away from eaves and overhangs that the exhaust gases can't make their way into buildings. Exhaust gases contain carbon monoxide which can be poisonous to humans and animals.

Water Utilities Services: Water main breaks often occur during low temperatures. One 16" main was repaired Saturday night and another was repaired this afternoon. The Water Office will be closed Monday and Tuesday. The Call Center will be open for customer service needs from 8am -5pm.

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Solid Waste Services have stopped collection routes until Wednesday and cancelled the green cart collection for the whole week. Monday routes are scheduled for Wednesday, Tuesday routes will be picked up Saturday. Thursday and Friday routes will run normally. The Cobbs Convenience Center will be closed Monday and Tuesday.

The **Waco Animal Shelter** staff continue to monitor the heat for the animals as well as providing blankets to help them stay warm in their kennels.

Other City Facilities Closed:

Municipal Court

All Community Centers

The Mammoth National Monument

Cameron Park Zoo

Cottonwood Creek Golf Course

All Four Library Branches

The Texas Ranger Hall of Fame and Museum

Waco Transit Services fixed routes and para-transit services are cancelled for tomorrow.

Go to [Waco-Texas.com](https://www.waco-texas.com) and click on Winter Weather for further updates and details: <https://www.waco-texas.com/information-release-4.asp#gsc.tab=0>

Stay Safe and Warm at Home.

Things Citizens Can Do:

Citizens should wrap all outside exposed pipes and keep faucets on inside walls in the home dripping to keep water moving.

Make sure everyone in the household knows where the main water shut-off valve is in case a pipe breaks and it is necessary to turn the water off in a hurry. Check this valve now to make sure it is working.

During prolonged freezes, consider opening all cabinet doors that contain water pipes to allow heat to enter them. Relocate any toxic materials so they are out of the reach of children and pets.

Stay inside your home. Bring outdoor pets in, or ensure they have adequate shelter.

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Conserve power. The Electric Reliability Council of Texas (ERCOT) is asking consumers and businesses to reduce their electricity use as much as possible Sunday, Feb. 14 through Tuesday, Feb. 16. ERCOT's tips to reduce energy use:

- Turn down thermostats to 68-degrees.
- Close shades and blinds to reduce the amount of heat lost through windows.
- Turn off and unplug non-essential lights and appliances.
- Avoid using large appliances (i.e., ovens, washing machines, etc.).
- Businesses should minimize the use of electric lighting and electricity-consuming equipment as much as possible.
- Large consumers of electricity should consider shutting down or reducing non-essential production processes.

Please do not travel unless absolutely necessary. If you come to a traffic intersection that is totally black and has lost power, treat it as a four-way stop.

If you have to travel, use extreme caution and patience. Visit the Texas Department of Transportation's website for Winter Travel driving tips and safety guide at <https://www.txdot.gov/driver/weather/winter-travel.html>

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