

# WINTER WEATHER

THOUGH THE WINTERS IN CENTRAL TEXAS ARE OFTEN MILD, WINTER WEATHER STILL POSES A MAJOR THREAT TO OUR RESIDENTS AND COMMUNITY.



Freezing rain, snow, and ice can be a fun, and often welcomed, change from the extreme heat experienced during the summer months.

Unfortunately, most people are not prepared for the impact that freezing temperatures and other winter weather events can cause.

Below is information about how to prepare for winter weather.

# WINTER WEATHER ALERT TERMS

**FREEZING RAIN** - RAIN THAT FREEZES WHEN IT HITS THE GROUND, CREATING A COATING OF ICE ON ROADS, WALKWAYS, TREES AND POWER LINES.

**SLEET** - RAIN THAT TURNS TO ICE PELLETS BEFORE REACHING THE GROUND THAT CAUSES MOISTURE ON ROADS TO FREEZE AND BECOME SLIPPERY.

**WIND CHILL** - WINDCHILL IS THE TEMPERATURE IT “FEELS LIKE” WHEN YOU ARE OUTSIDE.

**BLIZZARD WARNING** - SUSTAINED WINDS OR FREQUENT GUSTS TO 35 MILES PER HOUR OR GREATER AND CONSIDERABLE AMOUNTS OF FALLING OR BLOWING SNOW (REDUCING VISIBILITY TO LESS THAN A QUARTER MILE) ARE EXPECTED TO PREVAIL FOR A PERIOD OF THREE HOURS OR LONGER.

**FROST/FREEZE WARNING** - BELOW FREEZING TEMPERATURES ARE EXPECTED.



# WINTER WEATHER ALERT TERMS

**WINTER WEATHER ADVISORY** - WINTER WEATHER CONDITIONS ARE EXPECTED TO CAUSE SIGNIFICANT INCONVENIENCES AND MAY BE HAZARDOUS.

**WINTER STORM WATCH** - A WINTER STORM IS POSSIBLE IN YOUR AREA. A WINTER STORM WATCH IS ISSUED WHEN SEVERE WINTER CONDITIONS, SUCH AS HEAVY SNOW AND/OR ICE, MAY AFFECT YOUR AREA BUT THE LOCATION AND TIMING ARE STILL UNCERTAIN. A WINTER STORM WATCH IS ISSUED 12 TO 36 HOURS IN ADVANCE OF A POTENTIAL SEVERE STORM. TUNE IN TO NOAA WEATHER RADIO, LOCAL RADIO, TV, OR OTHER NEWS SOURCES FOR MORE INFORMATION. MONITOR ALERTS, CHECK YOUR EMERGENCY SUPPLIES, AND GATHER ANY ITEMS YOU MAY NEED IF YOU LOSE POWER.

**WINTER STORM WARNING** - A WINTER STORM IS OCCURRING OR WILL SOON OCCUR IN YOUR AREA.



# WINTER WEATHER TIPS



MAKE SURE THAT YOUR HEATERS ARE WORKING PROPERLY, WELL VENTILATED, AND ARE SERVICED REGULARLY. CARBON MONOXIDE POISONING RESULTING FROM HEATER MALFUNCTIONS CAN BE DEADLY!

AVOID DRIVING ON OVERPASSES AND BRIDGES, AS THEY ICE OVER FASTER THAN ROADWAYS.

WEAR SEVERAL LAYERS OF LOOSE-FITTING, LIGHTWEIGHT CLOTHING INSTEAD OF A SINGLE, HEAVY LAYER. WATER-REPELLENT OUTER GARMENTS WILL ENSURE THAT YOUR CLOTHING STAYS WARM AND DRY.

MAKE SURE THAT YOUR ANIMALS HAVE PLENTY OF FOOD AND WATER AND THAT THEIR SHELTER IS ADEQUATE TO PROTECT THEM FROM FREEZING TEMPERATURES.

WINTERIZE YOUR CAR BY REPLACING WIPER BLADES, FLUSHING THE COOLING SYSTEM, AND USING ANTIFREEZE.

WINTERIZE YOUR HOME BY INSULATING DRAFTY DOORWAYS. WRAP YOUR PIPES AND KEEP FAUCETS DRIPPING INSIDE THE HOME WHEN TEMPERATURES ARE EXPECTED TO DROP BELOW FREEZING.

IT IS BEST NOT TO TRAVEL DURING WINTER WEATHER, BUT IF TRAVEL IS NECESSARY, PLAN OUT YOUR TRIP AND LET SOMEONE KNOW YOUR TIMETABLE AND THE ROUTE YOU ARE TAKING. BE SURE TO CHECK THE LATEST WEATHER FORECAST BEFORE LEAVING.

