



# Mississippi Emergency Management Agency News Release

CONTACT: 866-920-MEMA



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Media Contact: 866-920-MEMA

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## **Winter Weather Impacting Mississippi**

**PEARL** – The Mississippi Emergency Management Agency urges residents to exercise extreme caution during an ongoing winter weather event. The National Weather Service forecast calls for continuing snow, ice, sleet and rain throughout much of the state today and early Monday. The northern third of the state could see about 4 to 8 inches of snow accumulation while the central portion of the state could see several inches of snow mixed with sleet and some freezing rain. Freezing rain and rain is possible tonight south of the Interstate 20 corridor as temperatures fall after sunset.

The Mississippi Department of Transportation is reporting some icing on Mississippi roadways in Claiborne, Copiah, Hinds, Holmes, Humphreys, Issaquena, Jefferson, Newton, Scott, Sharkey, Warren and Yazoo counties. Motorists are urged to stay off the roads as additional icing is expected on roads, bridges and overpasses.

MEMA recommends the following safety tips during winter storms:

- Stay home and do not drive on snowy or icy roads.
- Have a fully stocked emergency supply kit.
- Stay clear of downed power lines. Even if the electricity appears to have been turned off, leave the lines alone. Do not try to move them yourself.
- Only operate generators outdoors. Do not operate a generator inside your home or garage.
- Turn off all home appliances to prevent a surge once the power is turned on again.
- Be cautious when using alternative heat sources. Do not use a stove for heat because it can cause carbon monoxide poisoning.
- Letting water drip from a faucet during extremely cold weather can relieve water pressure and help prevent pipes of your home from bursting. If you suspect your pipes are frozen and may have burst, turn off your water at the main shut-off valve and call a plumber.

For more information, contact MEMA External Affairs at 866-920-MEMA (6362), or visit us online at [www.msema.org](http://www.msema.org). For the latest forecast information visit the National Weather Service at [www.srh.noaa.gov](http://www.srh.noaa.gov) and click on your area. MEMA will also post updates on its Facebook and Twitter pages.

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