



Mississippi Emergency Management Agency News Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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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. Reports of icy bridges and roads are already coming into the State Emergency Operations Center in Pearl and conditions are expected to deteriorate through the afternoon and overnight period.

Forecasters with the National Weather Service predict temperatures will remain near or below freezing through Friday morning as a storm system brings rain, sleet, ice and snow from about the Mississippi Highway 82 corridor south.

The Mississippi Department of Transportation is reporting some icing on Mississippi roadways in Copiah, Covington, Hinds, Itawamba, Jefferson Davis, Lauderdale, Lawrence, Leake, Lee, Lincoln, Marion, Newton, Pike, Simpson, Smith, Tallahatchie, Tippah, Union, Walthall and Yalobusha Counties. Motorists are urged to stay off the roads as additional icing is expected on roads, bridges and overpasses.

With the forecast of freezing rain in parts of the state residents should be prepared to be without power for an extended period of time.

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 visit us online at www.msema.org. For the latest forecast information visit the National Weather Service at www.srh.noaa.gov and click on your area. MEMA will also post updates on its Facebook and Twitter pages.

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