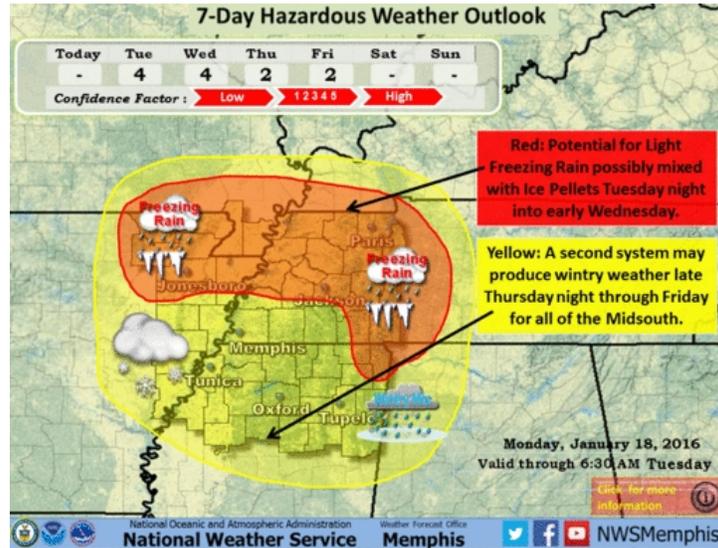




For Immediate Release
January 18, 2016

Prepare for Winter Weather Now!



“The National Weather Service (NWS) is predicting winter weather for the Mid-South.....now is the time to prepare,” said Director Dale Lane from the Shelby County Office of Preparedness. The NWS has forecast “light freezing rain to Northern and Eastern counties Tuesday through Wednesday and a second winter system bringing additional accumulations to the Mid-South Thursday evening and Friday.” Subfreezing temperatures will continue and driving conditions may become hazardous.

The Shelby County Office of Preparedness offers these winter preparedness tips:

1. Keep an all-hazards NOAA radio with a battery back-up with you. Upload free weather apps such as ReadyTN (www.tema.gov) or Weather (www.weather.com) to mobile devices. Know the weather terms and heed the warnings:
 - **Freezing Rain:** Rain that freezes when it hits the ground creating a coat of ice on roads, walkways, trees and powerlines.
 - **Sleet:** Rain that turns to ice pellets before reaching the ground.
 - **Windchill:** The temperature it “feels like” on exposed skin.
 - **Winter Weather Advisory:** Winter weather may cause inconveniences.
 - **Winter Storm Watch:** A winter storm is possible in 36 – 48 hours
 - **Winter Storm Warning:** A winter storm is occurring or will soon occur.
2. **Check emergency kits.** Ensure your emergency kits for home, work, and auto have enough supplies to sustain you and your pets for at least 7 days.
3. **Winterize your auto.** Keep a full tank of gas. Check: the battery, heater, defroster, lights, tires, brakes, and antifreeze levels. An auto kit should include: new wiper blades,

ice scraper, flashlight and batteries, NOAA weather radio, sand, rock salt, shovel, blankets, first-aid kit, bottled water, non-perishable food, a rope, HELP/OK sign, booster cables, cell phone and charger.

4. **Minimize travel.** Stay off the roads unless it is an emergency. If you must drive, use roads most traveled as they will likely be treated. Let others know your intended route and estimated time of arrival.
5. **Dress for winter.** Keep dry! Wear light layers under a heavy coat. Also wear socks, boots, a hat, a scarf (on your face), and mittens. If you experience signs of frostbite or hypothermia, get into a warm location and seek medical attention immediately.
6. **Winterize you home.** Wrap exposed pipes with insulation or newspapers during freezing temperatures. Open cabinet doors and allow faucets to drip. Keep ample heating fuel on hand and have alternative heating sources (fireplace or propane heater). Always maintain adequate ventilation. Do not operate space heaters unless you are in the room with them and keep heaters at least 3 feet from flammable objects. Never use a generator indoors. Have an ABC fire extinguisher, a working smoke detector, and a working carbon monoxide detector in your home.
7. **Pets.** Bring your pets into a warm space when temperatures plummet.
8. **Be a buddy!** Check on your neighbors during frigid temperatures, especially seniors, those living alone, single parents, and those with medical conditions.

For more information about winter preparedness, please visit: www.fema.org, www.ready.gov, and www.staysafeshelby.us.

End of Release