

News Release



The Shelby County Office of Preparedness, in partnership with the Federal Emergency Management Agency / Ready.gov, encourages you to **“Resolve To Be Ready in 2015!”** The Ready.gov website offers a “National Seasonal Preparedness Calendar” with reminders and helpful hints for winter, spring, summer, and fall. Our winter preparedness tips for you:

Communicate! When visiting relatives during the holidays, decide on two meeting places: one outside the home and another in the community. Instruct everyone to call an out-of-state relative to check in with during a disaster. Teach everyone how to text. Consider purchasing a set of family radios. Program “ICE” or In **C**ase of **E**mergency phone numbers into cell phones. Keep a battery-powered NOAA all-hazards radio and an ALERTFM with you at all times.

Auto Ready! Tune it up. Keep a full tank of gas. Keep a “go kit” with food, water, scraper, shovel, rock salt, flashlight, batteries, cell phone, charger, first-aid kit, scarf, hat, gloves, coat, boots, socks, blankets, and a red flag. Stay off the roads during ice and snow (unless it is an emergency). If you must drive, go slow, and travel only during daylight hours. Let others know your intended route and estimated time of arrival. Travel with a buddy. Use the roads most traveled (they will likely be treated with salt and brine).

Home Ready! Weatherize your home with insulation and caulking. Wrap exposed pipes. Trim tree branches clear of power lines. Have a safe secondary heat source (fireplace or propane heater). As temperatures dip below freezing, let faucets drip and open cabinet doors. Have a disaster kit ready that will sustain you and your pets for at least 7 days and nights.

Pet Ready! Bring pets inside during cold temperatures. Create a back-up plan for a neighbor to take care of your pet if can’t make it home during a winter disaster.

Be a buddy! Check on those who are more vulnerable during winter months (seniors, single parents, those without transportation, those with medical issues, and those who are isolated).

Resolve to be ready in 2015 for any hazard and threat! Visit www.staysafeshelby.us or [Ready.gov /Ready2015](http://Ready.gov/Ready2015), and check out #Ready2015 for more preparedness tips.

The Shelby County Office of Preparedness Wishes You a Safe and Happy New Year!