



News Release

Shelby County Office of Preparedness



For Immediate Release
December 21, 2017

Winter is Coming....Prepare Now!

"Winter officially begins Thursday, December 21st with a forecast of falling temperatures and a chance for a wintry mix in the coming days. Now is the time to review your family winter safety plans," said Dale Lane, Shelby County Office of Preparedness (SCOP) Director.

Communicate / Stay Informed:

- Ensure mobile devices can receive messages from the Emergency Alert System, Wireless Emergency Alerts, and NOAA weather radio.
- Have a NOAA battery-powered radio.
- Charge your devices!
- Program emergency phone numbers in cell phones.
- **Fill out the Family Communications Plan** at <https://www.ready.gov/make-a-plan>
- **Download SCOP-recommended mobile apps:**
 - ReadyTN at <http://www.tnema.org/ReadyTN/>
 - National Weather Service Mobile Weather at <https://www.weather.gov/wrn/mobile-phone>
- **Learn the weather terms:**
 - Wind Chill Index: How cold it feels. The combined effect of wind and cold temperatures.
 - Advisory: Be aware! Winter weather is possible. Anticipate delays and inconveniences.
 - Watch: Stay prepared! Winter weather is probable. Review your safety plans.
 - Warning: Winter weather is imminent. Listen to local emergency officials. Take action!



Dress for the Weather: Wear long layers, a warm hat, mittens, waterproof boots, a scarf, and a face mask.

Winterize Your Home: Anticipate power outages.

- **Build a Home Emergency Kit:** Include flashlight, batteries, NOAA radio, cell phone / charger, bottled water, non-perishable food, clothing, Mylar blanket, medication, first-aid kit, fire extinguisher, tools, whistle, portable toilet, hygiene supplies, cash, HELP / OK sign, and pet supplies.
- **Protect Plumbing:**
 - Insulate exposed pipes and place hard covers over outdoor faucets.
 - During freezing temperatures, let faucets drip and open cabinet doors under faucets.
- **Insulate:** Install caulk, weather stripping, insulation and storm windows.
- **Chimney / Fireplace:** Have a professional clean and inspect both annually.
- **Secondary Heating Devices:** Inspect propane heaters and fireplaces before use.
- **Portable Generators:** Inspect portable generators before use.
 - Operate generators at least 20 feet from the home in an open area away from windows.
- **Smoke / Carbon Monoxide Detectors / Extinguishers:**
 - Install smoke and carbon monoxide detectors on each level of the home and outside sleeping areas. Test them monthly.
 - Have a fire extinguisher on each level of the home near the exits.



Pets: Bring pets into a warm, dry, enclosed area. Ensure they have food and water.

- Move livestock to a sheltered area. Ensure they have non-frozen drinking water.

Neighbor Check: Check on neighbors who may be at-risk during cold weather events.



Winterize Vehicles:

- **Tune up:** Check tires, battery, antifreeze, fluids, brakes, wipers, lights, heater, and defroster.
- **Fill up:** Keep your gas tank full.
- **Auto Emergency Kit:** Include: NOAA radio, cellphone / charger, booster cables, kitty litter, road salt, shovel, ice scraper, tools, first-aid kit, gloves, boots, flashlight, batteries, map, Mylar blankets, HELP / OK sign, bottled water, nonperishable food, portable toilet, and hygiene items.

Safe Travel: Heed travel advice from emergency management officials and stay off the roads unless it is an emergency.

- **If you must travel:**
 - Check road conditions at TDOT (<https://www.tn.gov/tdot>).
 - Use the roads most traveled as they are likely treated.
 - Inform family of your route and estimated time of arrival.
 - Remember, "Ice and snow, take it slow!"



Resources:

www.ready.gov/prepare

View "When the Sky Turns Gray," video at https://youtu.be/XVpGJ_Xl_w

End Release

PREVENT • PROTECT • MITIGATE • RESPOND • RECOVER

Shelby County Office of Preparedness / Homeland Security / Emergency Management Agency

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