



# News Release

Shelby County Government. Emergency Management & Homeland Security Agency  
Director Brenda Jones

For Immediate Release  
February 2, 2022

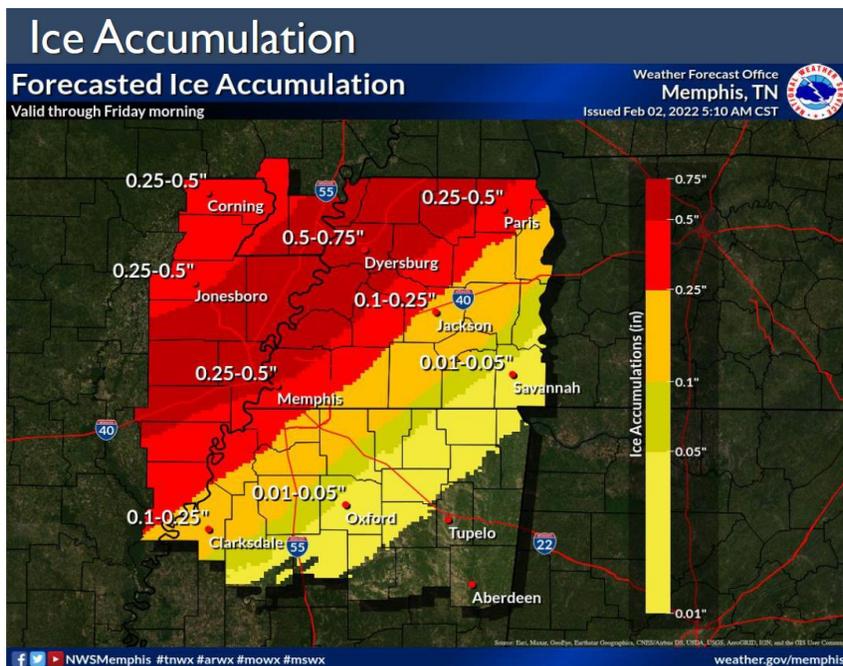
## Ice Storm Warning Issued for the Mid-South

**A winter storm is expected to impact portions of the Mid-South late tonight into Thursday.**

The National Weather Service has issued an ice storm warning for portions of the Mid-South. Rainfall will continue through this morning/afternoon then transition to freezing rain and sleet overnight into Thursday morning. Freezing rain and/or sleet will continue throughout the day Thursday, ending by Friday morning. Afterwards, wind chills will be in the single digits and teens by Friday with high temperatures in the mid to low 30s.

Power outages and tree damage are likely where significant ice accumulations occur. Roads and bridges will become very slick and travel will become very dangerous. MLGW crews and additional contract crews are ready to respond to any local damage or outages, however; restoration times may be extended due to COVID-19 safety measures.

**"The Emergency Operations Center will be staffed to remain in contact with our local emergency service partners and public works coordinators throughout Shelby County,"** added Director Brenda Jones.



Shelby County Emergency Management and Homeland Security Agency  
1075 Mullins Station Road C-113 Memphis, Tennessee 38134

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## **Preparing for Winter Weather**

With winter approaching, be sure to look through your emergency kit and add supplies, such as:

- Rock salt or more environmentally safe products to melt ice on walkways. (Remember that these products can be harmful to dogs, so be sure to choose a non-toxic brand if you or your neighbors have pets.)
- Sand/gravel to improve traction.
- Snow shovels or other snow removal equipment.
- Heating fuel. If you have a fireplace or wood-burning stove, keep a supply of good, dry wood for heating in case you lose power.
- Adequate clothing and blankets to keep warm, including coats, sweaters, hats, gloves, mittens, scarves, etc.
- Keep your NOAA Weather Radio in your kit to receive broadcast alerts and warnings directly from the NWS for all hazards. You may also sign up in advance to receive notifications from your local emergency services.
- Make a Family Communications Plan. Your family may not be together when disaster strikes, so it is important to know how you will contact one another, how you will get back together, and what you will do in case of an emergency.
- Be prepared to bring your pets/animals inside in the event of a winter storm. Move animals and livestock to a sheltered area with non-frozen drinking water.

## **Plan Your Travel During Winter Weather Carefully**

During a winter storm, minimize your travel by car. Even if winter weather conditions aren't present, conditions like black ice can cause vehicles to lose control.

If you plan on traveling by vehicle during the winter, make sure to winterize your vehicle. Check (or have a mechanic check) the following items in your car:

- Ensure that antifreeze levels are sufficient to avoid freezing.
- Ensure your battery and ignition are in top condition and battery terminals are clean.
- Check for wear and fluid levels of breaks.
- Check for leaks and crimped pipes in your exhaust system, and repair/replace them as necessary. Carbon monoxide is deadly and usually, there is no warning of its presence.
- Fuel and air filters - replace and keep water out of the system by using additives and maintaining a full tank of gas. A full tank will keep the fuel line from freezing.
- Ensure your heater and defroster are working properly.
- Check your lights and hazard lights to ensure they're working properly.

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Keep a winter weather supply kit in your vehicle, including:

- Shovel
- Windshield scraper and small broom
- Flashlight
- Battery-powered radio
- Extra batteries
- Water
- Food
- Matches
- Extra clothing and blankets to keep warm, such as coats, hats, socks, mittens, etc.
- First aid kit
- Medications
- Tow chain or rope
- Jumper cables
- Road salt and sand
- Emergency flares
- Florescent distress flag

## **Be Informed**

Know the below terms and what actions to take. Be alert to weather reports and tune in for specific guidance when these conditions develop.

- *Freezing Rain:* Rain that freezes when it hits the ground, creating a coating of ice on roads, walkways, trees, and power lines.
- *Sleet:* Rain that turns to ice pellets before reaching the ground. Sleet also causes moisture on roads to freeze and become slippery.
- *Wind Chill:* Windchill is the temperature it “feels like” when you are outside. The NWS provides a wind chill calculator to show the difference between air temperature and the perceived temperature and the amount of time until frostbite occurs.
- *Winter Weather Advisory:* The NWS issues a winter weather advisory when conditions are expected to cause significant inconveniences that may be hazardous. If caution is used, these situations should not be life-threatening.
- *Winter Storm Watch:* A winter storm is possible in your area. The NWS issues a winter storm watch when severe winter conditions, such as heavy snow and/or ice, may affect your area but the location and timing are still uncertain. A winter storm watch is issued 12 to 36 hours in advance of a potential severe storm. Tune in to NOAA Weather Radio, local radio, TV, or other news sources for more information.
- *Winter Storm Warning:* A winter storm is occurring or will soon occur in your area.

**(End of Release)**

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