



Texas Department of Public Safety

Information for the News Media

Media Relations Office

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Winter Storm Preparedness and Planning

Hard freezes and icy conditions can strike suddenly and with little warning. That's why officials with the Texas Division of Emergency Management and the National Weather Service urge Texans to prepare their cars and homes now for dangerous winter weather.

The following simple steps are recommended:

- Insulate outside faucets and pipes near outer walls to prevent them from freezing and bursting.
- Make sure that furnaces, heaters, fireplaces and wood stoves are clean, well-ventilated and in good working condition. Stock up on firewood and supplies, including canned goods and bottled water.
- If you will be away from home for a long period of time, set your thermostat to 55 degrees or higher and open cabinets under sinks.
- Winterize your vehicle by checking the battery, windshield wipers, tire pressure and fluid levels, and lubricate door and trunk locks to prevent freezing.
- Prepare an emergency supply kit for your car or truck, containing food, drinking water, blankets, rain gear, extra clothing, flashlights with extra batteries, jumper cables and a first aid kit.
- Avoid traveling when sleet, freezing rain or snow is predicted.
- Check on friends and family members whose health or age may put them at greater risk from cold weather.
- Make arrangements for proper shelter and an emergency supply of food and water for your pets and livestock.
- Monitor weather reports regularly for the latest information on storms and changes in weather conditions.

By winterizing your home and vehicle now, and paying careful attention to weather and road conditions, Texans can enjoy a safe winter. For more information, click on the following links:

<http://www.txdps.state.tx.us/dem/ThreatAwareness/winterstorm.htm>

<http://www.nws.noaa.gov/om/winter/winter1.shtml>

http://www.dot.state.tx.us/travel/road_conditions.htm

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