



# SHREVEPORT FIRE

D E P A R T M E N T

263 North Common Street, Shreveport, LA 71101

Phone: 318-673-6650 • FAX: 318-673-6656

[www.shreveportfire.org](http://www.shreveportfire.org)

**Clarence J. Reese, Jr., Fire Chief**

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## For Immediate Release

Contact: Calvin Baker, Jr., Chief of Special Operations and Safety

Cell: 318-455-2410

Office: 318-673-6760

Email: [calvin.baker@shreveportla.gov](mailto:calvin.baker@shreveportla.gov)

## Shreveport Fire Department Offers Winter Safety Tips to Residents Ahead of Winter Storm

**Shreveport, LA** – With a significant winter storm expected to bring icy conditions, possible snow accumulation, and freezing temperatures to the Shreveport area, the Shreveport Fire Department (SFD) urges residents to prioritize safety and preparedness. Hazardous weather conditions can pose risks to both personal safety and property, and the SFD is committed to helping our community stay safe during this winter event.

### Stay Safe at Home

#### 1. Heating Safety:

- Use space heaters with caution. Keep them at least 3 feet away from flammable materials like curtains, furniture, and bedding.
- Never leave space heaters or open flames (candles, fireplaces) unattended.
- Ensure your home heating system is functioning properly and have chimneys cleaned before use.

#### 2. Prevent Carbon Monoxide Poisoning:

- Never use generators, grills, or portable heaters indoors.
- Install carbon monoxide detectors and ensure they have fresh batteries.
- Refrain from using stoves as a heater source to warm the structure.

#### 3. Insulate Pipes:

- Wrap exposed pipes and leave faucets dripping to prevent freezing.
- Open cabinet doors to allow warm air to circulate around pipes.

### Be Cautious Outdoors

#### 1. Driving Safety:

- Avoid unnecessary travel. If you must drive, reduce speed and maintain a safe distance from other vehicles.

- Carry an emergency kit in you vehicle, including blankets, water, flashlights, and non-perishable snacks.
2. **Avoid Slips and Falls:**
    - Treat walkways and driveways with salt or sand to prevent ice buildup.
    - Wear shoes with good traction when venturing outside.

## **Emergency Preparedness**

1. **Stay Informed:**
  - Monitor local weather updates through the National Weather Service and local news outlets.
  - Sign up for emergency news alerts to receive real-time notifications.
2. **Prepare Your Home:**
  - Stock up on essential supplies such as water, food, batteries, and medications.
  - Have a plan in place for power outages, including extra blankets and alternative heating methods.
  - Make sure generators are at least 20 away from the structure when in use.

## **Helping Others**

Check on neighbors, especially the elderly and those with limited mobility, to ensure they are safe and have the resources they need.

“Winter storms can create challenges that we don’t often face here in Shreveport,” said Chief Clarence Reese, Jr., Fire Chief of the Shreveport Fire Department. “By taking proactive steps and staying informed, we can reduce risks and keep our community safe.”

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