

# SHREVEPORT FIRE DEPARTMENT

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## PRESS RELEASE

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### Shreveport Fire Department Urges Residents to Prepare Ahead of Potential Winter Storm This Weekend

**Shreveport, LA** — With a potential winter storm projected to impact the Shreveport area this weekend, bringing the possibility of freezing temperatures, icy road conditions, and winter precipitation, the Shreveport Fire Department (SFD) is urging residents to take proactive steps now to ensure the safety of their families and homes.

Winter weather presents unique hazards for the region, including increased risks of residential fires, carbon monoxide exposure, slips and falls, and traffic accidents. SFD officials emphasize that early preparation and situational awareness are critical to minimizing these risks and reducing emergency incidents during severe cold weather events.

#### Home Heating and Fire Safety

Residents are reminded to use heating sources responsibly:

- Space heaters should be kept at least three feet away from combustible materials such as curtains, furniture, and bedding.
- Never leave space heaters, candles, or fireplaces unattended.
- Ensure all home heating systems are functioning properly and that chimneys and vents are clean and unobstructed.

#### Carbon Monoxide Awareness

Carbon monoxide poisoning is a serious concern during winter storms:

- Never operate generators, grills, or portable heaters inside homes, garages, or near windows.
- Do not use ovens or stovetops to heat your home.
- Ensure carbon monoxide detectors are installed and have fresh batteries.

#### Pipe Protection and Home Preparation

Freezing temperatures can cause significant property damage:

- Wrap exposed pipes and allow faucets to drip to help prevent freezing.
- Open cabinet doors beneath sinks to allow warm air to circulate.
- Stock essential supplies including water, non-perishable food, medications, flashlights, and extra batteries.
- Prepare for potential power outages by having blankets and alternative heating methods available. If using generators, keep them at least 20 feet away from any structure.

CLARENCE J. REESE, JR.  
Fire Chief

## **Travel and Outdoor Safety**

If winter precipitation develops:

- Avoid unnecessary travel whenever possible.
- Reduce driving speeds and maintain safe distances from other vehicles.
- Keep an emergency kit in your vehicle, including blankets, water, flashlights, and snacks.
- Treat sidewalks and driveways with salt or sand and wear footwear with proper traction to prevent slips and falls.

## **Stay Informed and Look Out for Others**

Residents are encouraged to closely monitor weather forecasts and official updates from the National Weather Service and local media outlets. Signing up for local emergency alerts can provide timely information as conditions evolve. Additionally, SFD urges residents to check on elderly neighbors, individuals with medical needs, and those with limited mobility to ensure they have adequate heat, supplies, and assistance.

“Winter storms can present challenges that our community does not routinely experience,” said Fire Chief Clarence J. Reese, Jr. “Preparation, caution, and looking out for one another are key to keeping everyone safe during severe winter weather.”

The Shreveport Fire Department will continue to monitor conditions and provide updates as necessary. In case of an emergency, residents should dial 911. ###