



# MISSISSIPPI EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

## NEWS RELEASE

CONTACT: 866- 920-MEMA

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Media Contact  
866-920-MEMA

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **MEMA asks people to prepare for severe winter conditions**

**PEARL** – Residents of north and northwest Mississippi counties are asked to be cautious and prepare for severe winter weather conditions as a storm front sweeps across the Mid South.

Northern counties including DeSoto, Marshall, Tippah, Alcorn, Tunica, Tate, Coahoma, Quitman, Panola, Lafayette, Union, Tallahatchie and Yalobusha are under a freezing rain advisory from midnight tonight until noon on Wednesday, according to the National Weather Service. These areas may receive a wintry mix of freezing rain, sleet and snow. Ice accumulations up to ¼ of an inch are possible late tonight.

“Dangerous driving conditions are possible with the winter weather forecasted tonight,” said MEMA Director Mike Womack. “Drive cautiously tonight and tomorrow and pay attention to your local weather reports. Make sure you have emergency supplies ready in case of power outages.”

Additional counties in the western and central parts of the state are under a winter weather advisory until 6 a.m. Wednesday. Wintry precipitation is possible during a winter weather advisory.

The following are tips residents can use to protect themselves from the cold weather:

Prepare yourself and your family:

- Wear several layers of loose fitting, lightweight, warm clothing rather than one layer of heavy clothing. The outer garments should be tightly woven and water repellent.
- Wear mittens, they are warmer than gloves.
- Wear insulated footwear and always try to keep your feet dry.
- Wear a hat, body heat is lost through your head.

Prepare your home:

- Learn how to shut off water valves in case pipes freeze.
- Keep fire extinguishers on hand, and make sure everyone in your house knows how to use them. House fires pose an additional risk, as more people turn to alternate heating sources without taking the necessary safety precautions.
- Know ahead of time what you should do to help elderly or disabled friends, neighbors or employees.

Prepare your car:

- Make sure heater and defroster work properly.
- Make sure lights and flashing hazard lights work properly.
- Maintain at least half a tank of gas at all times during the winter season.

*“Disaster Preparedness Saves Lives and Property”*

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For more information, contact MEMA External Affairs at 866-920-MEMA (6362), or visit us online at [www.msema.org](http://www.msema.org).

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