

**Governor's Office of Homeland Security
and Emergency Preparedness**
State of Louisiana

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GOHSEP's Crisis Action Team Activated due to Winter Weather Conditions

BATON ROUGE (January 16, 2018) – The Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness activated its Crisis Action Team (CAT) due to the wintry weather conditions currently impacting the state. Team members will monitor the conditions, provide situational reports to state and local leaders and help answer any calls for support from our local partners. Much of the state is already dealing with sleet and snow on the roadways. The National Weather Service indicates many areas will also face extended periods of time below the freezing mark.

Commissioner of Administration Jay Dardenne announced the following office closure information:

Due to extreme weather possible as freezing temperatures impact Louisiana, Commissioner of Administration Jay Dardenne is announcing that all state offices will close Tuesday, January 16 at noon and remain closed through Wednesday. All agency heads are responsible for determining those essential personnel who should remain on duty or those who should report to alternate work sites, if necessary. State officials continue to monitor conditions throughout the state, and this announcement may be updated. State employees should be aware of the following phone numbers to call, which will be updated: 1-800-360-9660 or 225-342-0498.

Drivers are facing dangerous conditions on our roadways due to the wintry mix. Those impacted roads will expand as we go into the evening hours. If you must travel, check www.511la.org for updates on road closures and other important information.

The Louisiana State Fire Marshal's office reminds everyone to use caution when operating a space heater or any other heating source:

When using any type of heating source, whether it is a space heater or fireplace, homeowners should incorporate a "three-foot rule," where there should be a space of at least three feet between a heating source and any combustibles such as furniture and décor. Ovens or open flame sources, such as candles, should never be used to heat homes.

Also, **don't forget your pets** when the temperature drops. Make sure your pets have a warm, dry place with plenty of food and water.

Visit www.511la.org for road updates during an emergency. Keep your phones charged and near you while the threat continues in order to receive potential emergency messaging.

Find more tips on weather and preparedness on GOHSEP's Facebook and Twitter accounts. You can receive emergency alerts on most smartphones and tablets by downloading the new Alert FM App. It is free for basic service. The Get A Game Plan App is another resource available to help you and your family prepare for any type of emergency. You can download the Louisiana Emergency Preparedness Guide and find other information at www.getagameplan.org.

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