

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

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Another Round of Freezing Temperatures on the Forecast

BATON ROUGE (January 11, 2018) – More cold weather is on the way for Louisiana. The Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness is urging everyone to be aware of freezing temperatures expected this weekend. Some portions of the state in extreme Northeast Louisiana could be impacted by ice and snow, making it dangerous to be on the roads in those areas. House fires have also been a problem this winter during long periods of freezing conditions.

"Make plans now to deal with this latest round of winter weather," said GOHSEP Director Jim Waskom. "Check on friends and loved ones who may need help dealing with this type of weather. Make sure you carefully use any heaters or other items used to keep your homes warm. Also, be sure to check the roads in areas where wintry conditions could become a factor."

The Louisiana State Fire Marshal's office has released the following information concerning the rash of house fires this winter:

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.

Here are National Weather Service updates for much of the state:

Northwest Louisiana:

Showers and thunderstorms will increase this afternoon ahead of a strong cold front. Look for temperatures to climb into the mid and upper 60s this afternoon, before falling sharply into the mid and upper 20s across much of East Texas and Southwest Arkansas, to the lower and mid 30s across North Louisiana. The rain will diminish from west to east this evening, although a brief period of light freezing rain/light snow will be possible this evening over Southeast Oklahoma and late tonight over Southwest Arkansas. However, little if any snow or ice accumulation is expected.

Extreme Northeast Louisiana:

Here's the updated forecast for winter weather on Friday. Up to 1" of snow/sleet accumulation is possible, mainly on grassy or elevated surfaces. Bridges and/or overpasses may become slick.

South Louisiana:

A warm day will be ahead of strong cold front tonight, bringing Arctic air to the Deep South. Some showers and storms are expected this evening prior to wind shift. Light to moderate freezes are expected the next few nights along with biting wind chills Friday and Friday night.

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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