

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

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
January 28, 2019

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Winter Weather Expected to Impact Louisiana

BATON ROUGE (January 28, 2019) – The Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness (GOHSEP) is urging everyone to prepare for freezing temperatures and the potential for wintry conditions across much of the state. GOHSEP has activated its Crisis Action Team in order to support our local emergency managers with any potential requests for resources. The National Weather Service (NWS) offices that cover Louisiana have already issued Winter Weather Advisories for some regions. Check your local forecast and be aware of any weather alerts. If ice, sleet or snow becomes a problem, use caution.

Here is the latest on timing and possible conditions from the National Weather Service (NWS) Shreveport office:

Timing and Overview:

Rain will develop across the region as an arctic cold front moves through Monday evening. Lingering precipitation behind the front will transition to snow. A Winter Weather Advisory has been issued for a large area extending from Natchitoches to Monroe.

Four State Impacts:

Expected Accumulations:

One to two inches across portions of north and central Louisiana, along with portions of south-central Arkansas

Impacts:

Light icing on elevated surfaces such as bridges and overpasses may cause hazardous driving conditions.

Here is the latest on timing and possible conditions from the NWS-Jackson, MS office (northeast LA):**Today and Tonight**

SNOW THREAT...Limited

TIMING...Late this evening through overnight

Travel issues are possible late this evening and through the overnight hours as precipitation behind a strong cold front changes over to snow. Snow accumulations of up to an inch are possible. Bridges may become snow covered and slick. **Wind chills will fall into the teens** overnight.

Tuesday through Sunday

Roads may remain hazardous through Tuesday morning. In addition, wind chills are expected to be in the teens.

Here is the latest on timing and possible conditions from the NWS-Lake Charles office:**MONDAY MORNING UPDATE:**

A **Winter Weather Advisory** has been issued for Rapides Parish and Avoyelles Parish in effect from 2 AM to 9 AM Tuesday morning in anticipation of the upcoming system. The tail end of an arctic cold front will move through central Louisiana overnight Monday into Tuesday morning with rain changing over to snow for a brief period of time. Accumulations of up to one inch will be possible in parts of the advisory area, especially on elevated surfaces. This may cause hazardous driving conditions, especially on elevated roadways, bridges, and overpasses. Any accumulated snow is expected to melt by mid-morning Tuesday as temperatures rise further above freezing.

Elsewhere, the situation remains similar to previous forecasts. Roughly, south of the US-190 corridor towards the I-10 corridor, temperatures are expected to remain warm enough to result in precipitation falling as rain, with maybe a flake or two of snow possible closer to the transition line. Along and north of this line, cold air is expected to

move in quick enough before precipitation exits the region that rain will be able to transition to a rain/snow mix and perhaps light snow for a brief time. In these areas, not much more than a light dusting is expected in terms of accumulation, primarily on elevated surfaces, with better chances further north where temperatures will be cooler.

Here is the latest on timing and possible conditions from the NWS-New Orleans office:

A **Winter Weather Advisory** has been issued for southwest Mississippi, effective from 3 am CST to 9 am CST Tuesday morning.

Here's what we know for sure:

A strong cold front will move through the area late tonight, ushering in the coldest air of the season.

Potential for wintry precipitation:

Moisture ahead and along the front will push an area of rain eastward across the forecast area tonight into early Tuesday, mainly after 3 am. Cold temperatures will quickly filter in behind the front. There is potential for a changeover to snow by sunrise Tuesday morning. This would mainly be across southwest Mississippi, and the northern portions of the adjacent southeast Louisiana parishes. Accumulations around an inch are possible across southwest Mississippi Tuesday morning, mainly on elevated objects. A wintry mix is possible north of Interstate 12 from Baton Rouge to Washington parish Tuesday morning with a dusting of snow possibly accumulating on elevated objects. While accumulating snow is not likely south of Lake Pontchartrain or over coastal Mississippi, rain could mix with or briefly change over to snow flurries Tuesday morning before ending yielding no impacts.

ONLINE RESOURCES

Before you travel in areas potentially impacted by the winter weather, check the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development's website www.511la.gov for any road issues.

www.getagameplan.org: Louisiana residents can take simple steps to protect themselves, their families, their pets and their homes. GOHSEP provides detailed tips and information for how to respond in the event of a tornado, flooding, thunderstorm, hurricane or other severe weather.

www.weather.gov: The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) provides detailed, zip code level weather information for the public on its Website. Users

can get information about severe weather warnings and alerts and also view forecasts from National Weather Service staff.

www.ready.gov: The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) outlines what to do in many disaster scenarios on its preparedness site.

ALERT FM: Free App that allows GOHSEP to create and send digital alerts and messages based on geographic or organizational groups. Messages are delivered to the data subcarrier of existing FM transmitters around the US. Overlapping signals of FM stations ensure rapid message transmission even when other communication systems are disrupted.

Find more tips on weather and preparedness on GOHSEP's Facebook and Twitter accounts. Listen to conversations on all aspects of emergency management by downloading GOHSEP's The Get A Game Plan Podcast. 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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