

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

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GOHSEP Activates Crisis Action Team due to Winter Weather Conditions

BATON ROUGE (December 7, 2017) – The Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness (GOHSEP) is urging everyone to prepare for winter precipitation. GOHSEP's Crisis Action Team is being activated to answer any requests for support from our local partners. GOHSEP also hosted conference calls with the National Weather Service (NWS) and parish leaders to coordinate emergency response. The NWS indicates some regions of the state have already seen sleet and icy conditions.

GOHSEP Director James Waskom said, "Please be aware of possible dangerous conditions on our roads tonight and tomorrow. Get a game plan to protect friends or loved ones who may not be prepared to handle freezing temperatures or icy conditions. Protect your pets from the cold. If travel is in your plans, visit www.511la.org for updates on road conditions. GOHSEP is closely monitoring this weather threat and stands ready to support our local partners and state agencies if help is needed."

NWS Shreveport-

Timing and Overview:

The National Weather Service in Shreveport has issued a Freeze Warning, which is in effect from 8:00 pm this evening to 9:00 am Friday. A cold high pressure will bring freezing temperatures to the entire ArkLaTex overnight. Widespread freezing is

December 7, 2017

expected around mid-evening and continue through mid-morning Friday. Temperatures will range from around 20 degrees to around 30 degrees in the region. Precautions should be taken to protect pets, pipes and plants from the freezing conditions.

NWS Baton Rouge/New Orleans-

Timing and Overview:

A Winter Weather Advisory is in effect for the region. Rain this evening will transition to snow tonight and Friday. Light accumulations of up to 2 inches are possible on grass and elevated surfaces across greater Baton Rouge, the Northshore and southwest Mississippi. Other areas including the Southshore, New Orleans, and the Mississippi coast may see a transition to snow Friday with no accumulation expected.

NWS Lake Charles-

Timing and Overview:

The National Weather Service in Lake Charles has issued a Winter Weather Advisory for parts of central and south central Louisiana for late tonight into Friday morning. A Freeze Warning is in effect for late tonight into Friday morning for east Texas and central Louisiana.

A rain/sleet mix will turn into a rain/snow mix later tonight in east Texas and central Louisiana. Those conditions will shift south towards the I-10 corridor of southeast Texas and southwest and south central Louisiana. Snow accumulations will be less than one inch, mainly in central and south central Louisiana.

The frozen precipitation will be ending from north to south Friday morning. Temperatures will be at or below freezing in parts of east Texas and central Louisiana for a few hours in the morning, so wet bridges could be icy and hazardous for a few hours. Temperatures will remain above freezing along the I-10 corridor of southeast Texas and southwest and south central Louisiana, so no significant icy roads or bridges are expected in this region.

AAA recommends the following winter driving tips:

- Avoid driving while you're fatigued. Getting the proper amount of rest before taking on winter weather tasks reduces driving risks.
- Never warm up a vehicle in an enclosed area, such as a garage.
- Make certain your tires are properly inflated.
- Keep your gas tank at least half full to avoid gas line freeze-up.
- If possible, avoid using your parking brake in cold, rainy and snowy weather.

December 7, 2017

- Do not use cruise control when driving on any slippery surface (wet, ice, sand).
- Use your seat belt every time you get into your vehicle.

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 emergency. You download the Louisiana Emergency Preparedness Guide and find other information at www.getagameplan.org.

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