



60 WINTER WEATHER TIPS

BEFORE THE STORM (24–48 HOURS AHEAD)

- ❄️ 1. Charge all phones, power banks, tablets, and rechargeable lanterns.
- ❄️ 2. Fill vehicle gas tanks in case stations lose power.
- ❄️ 3. Get cash in small bills in case card systems go down.
- ❄️ 4. Pick up prescriptions and essential medications early.
- ❄️ 5. Download movies, books, and maps for offline use.
- ❄️ 6. Identify one warm room in the house to “camp out” if power fails.
- ❄️ 7. Locate water shut-off valve and breaker box now, not later.
- ❄️ 8. Set fridge and freezer to colder settings to hold temperature longer.

WATER AND PIPE PROTECTION

- ❄️ 9. Drip faucets on exterior walls when temps drop below freezing.
- ❄️ 10. Open cabinet doors under sinks to allow warm air circulation.
- ❄️ 11. Disconnect garden hoses from outdoor spigots.
- ❄️ 12. Cover outdoor faucets with insulated caps or towels.
- ❄️ 13. Know how to shut off water quickly if a pipe bursts.
- ❄️ 14. Fill jugs, buckets, or bathtub with water for flushing and washing.

FOOD AND KITCHEN PREP

- ❄️ 15. Keep 3–5 days of no-cook food: peanut butter, tuna, bread, crackers, canned meat, fruit cups.
- ❄️ 16. Have manual can opener available.
- ❄️ 17. Buy shelf-stable milk or powdered milk if needed.
- ❄️ 18. Freeze a few water bottles to act as freezer “ice packs.”
- ❄️ 19. Keep a cooler ready to move fridge food outside if power is out and temps are below freezing.
- ❄️ 20. Avoid stocking large amounts of perishables right before the storm.

HEAT AND HOME SAFETY

- ❄️ 21. Gather extra blankets, sleeping bags, and warm layers.
- ❄️ 22. If using a fireplace, confirm chimney is clear and have dry wood.
- ❄️ 23. Never run generators or grills inside garages or homes.
- ❄️ 24. Test smoke and carbon-monoxide detectors.
- ❄️ 25. Have at least one flashlight per person plus spare batteries.
- ❄️ 26. Use battery lanterns instead of candles when possible.

VEHICLE AND TRAVEL

- ❄️ 27. Plan to avoid driving once freezing rain begins.
- ❄️ 28. Bridges, overpasses, and shaded roads freeze first.
- ❄️ 29. Keep in the car: blanket, water, snacks, phone charger, gloves.
- ❄️ 30. Replace old wiper blades and top off washer fluid.
- ❄️ 31. Park away from large tree limbs when possible.
- ❄️ 32. Assume flights and travel may be disrupted for days.

POWER OUTAGE PLAN

- ❄️ 33. Unplug sensitive electronics to avoid surge damage.
- ❄️ 34. Keep one battery radio or weather app for updates.
- ❄️ 35. Use surge protectors for TVs and computers.
- ❄️ 36. Know where warming centers may be in your parish.
- ❄️ 37. Have extension cords ready if using a generator outside.
- ❄️ 38. Keep refrigerator closed to preserve cold air.

PETS AND LIVESTOCK

- ❄️ 39. Bring pets indoors with extra food and water.
- ❄️ 40. Provide outdoor animals with unfrozen water sources.
- ❄️ 41. Add straw or blankets to outdoor shelters.
- ❄️ 42. Keep leashes and carriers accessible in case of evacuation.

MEDICAL AND SPECIAL NEEDS

- ❄️ 43. Keep a written list of medications and dosages.
- ❄️ 44. Store a small first-aid kit with thermometer and basic meds.
- ❄️ 45. Have backup batteries for medical devices.
- ❄️ 46. Identify a place with power you could relocate to if needed.

PROPERTY PROTECTION

- ❄️ 47. Move vehicles away from trees or power lines.
- ❄️ 48. Secure outdoor furniture and lightweight items.
- ❄️ 49. Avoid trimming trees during the storm—do it beforehand.
- ❄️ 50. Photograph property for insurance before conditions worsen.

DURING THE STORM

- ❄️ 51. Do not drive unless absolutely necessary.
- ❄️ 52. Assume downed lines are live and dangerous.
- ❄️ 53. Use only safe indoor heating methods.
- ❄️ 54. Check on neighbors, especially elderly, by phone if possible.
- ❄️ 55. Report outages to utility companies rather than 911 unless it's an emergency.

AFTER THE STORM

- ❄️ 56. Walk carefully—ice may refreeze overnight.
- ❄️ 57. Check pipes for leaks as temperatures rise.
- ❄️ 58. Throw out refrigerated food if above 40°F for more than 4 hours.
- ❄️ 59. Avoid DIY electrical repairs around downed lines.
- ❄️ 60. Be patient—restoring power after ice can take several days.

KEY REALITY FOR SOUTHERN ICE EVENTS

- ❄️ A quarter inch of ice can bring scattered outages.
- ❄️ Half an inch can cripple travel and power for days.
- ❄️ Ice is more dangerous than snow for the Deep South