



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