

**POLK COUNTY, TEXAS  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Date: February 13, 2021

Time: 4:30 p.m.

Contact: Polk County Office of Emergency Management  
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**WINTER STORM WARNING**

The National Weather Service in Houston/Galveston (NWS) has issued a Winter Storm Warning, which is in effect from 9 p.m. tonight through 6 p.m. Monday for Polk County. Periods of freezing rain or drizzle are expected, especially tonight and Sunday, creating icy conditions. A period of moderate snow, sleet and freezing rain is expected Sunday night and Monday followed by bitterly cold conditions Monday night and Tuesday. Snow, ice and cold will likely pose a threat to life and property with hazardous road conditions, burst pipes and water mains, damage to infrastructure, and power outages.

Today and Sunday temperatures will be mainly near or just below freezing for areas north and west of Houston. Temperatures are expected to drop to 26 degrees Sunday morning, 19 degrees Monday morning, and 8 degrees Tuesday morning. NWS is forecasting 1-2 inches of snowfall for most of Polk County, with .10 to .25 inches of ice accumulation through Tuesday morning.

A decision on closing County offices will be made late Monday afternoon. Check your school district's websites and social media pages for school closure and virtual learning updates.

Now is the time to insulate pipes, and make plans to shelter in place Sunday night through Tuesday if possible. Remember to protect, pets, plants, and pipes. There is a risk of hypothermia for anyone outside who is not dressed properly.

Prepare your home to keep out the cold with insulation, caulking and weather stripping. Insulate pipes to keep them from freezing. Install and test smoke alarms and carbon monoxide detectors with battery backups. Gather supplies in case you need to stay home for several days without power. Keep in mind each person's specific needs, including medication. Remember the needs of your pets. Have extra batteries for radios and flashlights and keep electronic devices charged. Create an emergency supply kit that includes a flashlight, warm clothes, blankets, bottled water and non-perishable food and snacks.

Avoid travel if you can. To check highway conditions, log onto [www.DriveTexas.org](http://www.DriveTexas.org). TXDOT began pre-treating highways yesterday and will continue to monitor and treat TXDOT roads as needed throughout the winter weather event.

Another winter storm is possible on Wednesday although it could bring more rain for southern areas, and an ice threat, especially in northern areas of Southeast Texas. There is uncertainty still with that storm.