



*Santa Rosa County Public Information ■ 4499 Pine Forest Road ■ Milton, Florida ■ 32583 ■ (850) 983-5254*

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#100107-CLDTPS

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### ***Cold Weather Expected, Take Precautions***

Local temperatures are expected to drop over the next few days, with forecasters predicting lows in the mid-teens and highs only reaching the low 40's. Citizens are urged to remember the five P's of cold weather- protect **people**, protect **pets**, protect **plants**, protect **pipes** and **practice fire safety**.

In preparation for the low temperatures, Santa Rosa County has taken the following steps:

- The emergency operations center is at a level three or monitoring phase.
- Emergency management and public works staff are on standby through the weekend to respond as needed.
- Public works has sand on standby to place on roadways if icy conditions occur. Any road closures will be announced as they occur.
- The American Red Cross is on standby to open a public warming shelter if needed for any long-term power outages.
- There are currently no plans to close county offices, the court system or public schools. However, the public is urged to monitor the local media for the latest information.

If the temperature cannot be maintained at your home, make temporary arrangements to stay elsewhere, including with friends and family. Two cold weather shelters for the homeless will through Sunday night, one in Milton at Ferris Hill Baptist Church located at 6848 Chaffin Street and the other in Holley at Billory Baptist Church located at 8162 Stillwater Cove. Those who would like to stay at the shelter must arrive between 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. No one will be admitted after 8:30 p.m. unless brought in by law enforcement. The shelter will close at 7 a.m. each morning.

In the event of long-term power outages, be extremely careful when using generators, lanterns, gas powered appliances or when cooking on charcoal grills or gas grills. These appliances produce dangerous levels of carbon monoxide which is a deadly, invisible and odorless gas that can cause poisoning in only a matter of minutes. Equipment or appliances that produce carbon monoxide should never be used indoors. Opening doors and windows or using fans will not stop carbon monoxide build-up.

Ice on roadways is a possibility. Santa Rosa County Emergency Management asks residents to take special precautions when driving:

- Drive according to the conditions on the road. Remember bridges, overpasses and infrequently travel roads will freeze first.
- Allow extra time to get to your destination.
- Don't use cruise control on icy roads.
- Reduce your speed and leave plenty of room to stop. There should be at least three times the normal amount of space between you and the car in front of you.
- To avoid skidding break gently if your wheels start to lock up, ease off the brake.

More cold weather tips and information on what to do before, during and after a wide variety of disasters can be found the county's disaster guide available online at <http://www.santarosa.fl.gov/emergency/disasterprep.html>.