



St. James Parish Government

COMMUNICATIONS



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

December 20th, 2022

St James Parish Prepares for Artic Blast

Convent, LA – St James Parish is asking all residents to prepare for a strong artic blast moving in on December 22-25. The current forecast is predicting temperatures to drop as low as the upper teens with wind chills as low as 9 degrees. Freezing conditions can last up to 4 days, beginning late Thursday night, December 22, and lasting through Sunday, December 25.

Parish President Pete Dufresne is advising residents to prepare their homes now and to follow all guidelines given by the Parish. He said, "This is the worst weekend of the year for a freeze event to occur. However, we know in advance that it's coming, so we need to prepare and do our part. Take precautions, and stock up on supplies to protect yourself and your family this weekend. We're all in this together - and we need everyone in St James Parish to start preparing now to protect themselves and prevent losing the water supply."

The St James Parish Operation Department is recommending the following actions:

- You should prepare now to be without water for 6-8 hours in the event that we experience interruptions. Stock up on bottled water for drinking and cooking. You should fill a 5 gallon container with water for flushing toilets now in case there are outages this weekend. Don't fill a bathtub which can drain overnight, fill a 5 gallon bucket or similar container with water.
- Locate where your shut-off valve is. If you need to wrap and insulate your pipes, do that now.
- Wash any necessary clothes and dishes before Thursday so we can conserve water this weekend
- If you have an exterior water heater, wrap it and insulate it now. Follow manufacturer's directions and/or consult with a professional or a licensed plumber.
- Ensure your smoke detectors and carbon monoxide detectors are functioning properly.
- If you use space heaters to heat your home, avoid using power strips and extension cords. Instead, plug space heaters directly into a current protected wall outlet.
- If you plan on going out of town for the holidays, turn off your water and drain the pipes to protect your home while you're gone.
- Take precautions to protect people, pets, pipes and plants. Have a way to stay weather-aware and receive weather updates.
- Be a good neighbor - reach out to your neighbors and especially elderly residents who live near you.

As always, our St. James Parish officials are monitoring weather conditions and are in contact with the National Weather Service to receive the latest weather forecasts. Additional information will be posted on the St. James Parish Facebook page and website, as necessary, with alerts sent through our Emergency Alert System as needed.

If you have any questions or concerns, please call our utilities department at 225-562-2500 now until Thursday at 4:30pm, and the non-emergency number at 225-562-2200.