




St. James Parish Government

COMMUNICATIONS

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December 22th, 2022

St James Parish Winter Weather Guidelines

St James Parish has issued winter weather guidelines in advance of the artic blast this weekend.

The first impacts of the artic blast will begin Thursday evening as the very intense cold front quickly moves through. There will be extreme cold and prolonged freeze along with dangerous wind chills. This weather event will last 3-4 days with roughly 60 hours at 32 degrees or below. Residents should take every precaution and finish all preparations by Thursday evening.

Residents need to begin conserving water on **Thursday, December 22nd, at 6:00p.m.** Conserving water is crucial to preventing the need for rolling water shut offs and to ensure our Volunteer Fire Department has adequate water in a fire situation. Please be a good neighbor – check on your neighbors and make sure that they are prepared.

You do not need to drip a faucet if your house is on a slab with properly insulated pipes.

If you are in a raised home, run the hot water faucet furthest from your water meter at a trickle for one minute every 4 hours to adequately protect your pipes, reduce strain on the water system, and prevent the need for implementing rolling water shut offs.

The best practice is to shut off water, drain pipes, and turn off water heaters overnight.

The weather during the Christmas Eve Bonfire will bring dangerous wind chills. Please make sure to wear multiple layers and dress appropriately for the temperatures we are anticipating.

- **Pipes:**
 - Wrap and insulate pipes
 - Run a hot water faucet furthest from your water meter at a trickle for one minute every 4 hours to reduce strain on the water system and adequately protect your pipes.
 - Best practice: Shut off water, drain pipes, and turn off water heaters overnight
 - Shield faucets from wind, Keep meter box close
- **Fire/heater:**
 - Test smoke and carbon monoxide alarm
 - Heaters 3-5ft from objects - Don't leave unattended
 - No power strips
- **Pets/animals:**
 - Keep pets inside
 - Have external heat
 - Raise dog houses
- **Plants:**
 - Water soil
 - Use coverings
 - Bring inside when possible

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 225-562-2364.