

LA BEOC

LOUISIANA BUSINESS EMERGENCY OPERATIONS CENTER

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Supporting business during a disaster



Louisiana experienced 21 separate tornados on December 14, 2022, resulting in three fatalities. Damages assessments are ongoing at the time of publication.

A summary of damages includes:

- 10+ homes damaged, including several public housing buildings
- **60+ Businesses damaged**
- 1 hospital damaged (New Iberia)
- LSU Ag building in Woodworth damaged
- Widespread power outages in the affected areas

If your organization feels the desire to either contribute or volunteer to help, visit the Louisiana Volunteer Organizations Active in Disaster (LAVOAD) website at: [LAVOAD How to Help](#)

There are two themes that I want to emphasize this month in conjunction with FEMA's messages, winter safety, and online shopping safety.

Winter in south Louisiana brings a vast assortment of challenges, from what you would consider winter weather to cold, damp, and wet conditions in some cases, we can experience snow and icy conditions in the northern portion of the state. Then there are days like today, where dense fog entered the area, and visibility was reduced to less than a quarter of a mile into the mid-morning.

On the commute today, in some of the thickest fog I have seen this year, a young driver tried to pass me. I was shocked to see them coming around, and the visibility on the oncoming traffic lane was poor at best. Halfway into this unsafe action, lights appeared in the oncoming lane, and the young driver was stuck. They had not passed me yet (about the middle of the cab of my truck) with a vehicle headed straight for them. I was forced to slam on my brakes to give the youngster the room to return to the driving lane, or else face a head-on collision. The young driver sped off, barreling into the fog with no regard for anyone around them. When foggy conditions are forecasted, make sure you plan extra time for the commute.

With Christmas around the corner, I did some online shopping, like many of you. Since my first order after Thanksgiving, the inbox is chock full of phishing emails.

Without entering a single contest, to date, I have won 3 Dewalt drills, 2 Green egg cookers, and a \$500 shopping spree at Harbor Freight. I would have loved to win any of those items, but I know that it is all clickbait. Do not risk your identity this time of year. Think before you click.

Stay safe.
Jim

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Season's Greetings from NIMSAT!

Our December newsletter focuses on winter driving safety. During the winter months, many families, and individuals travel for work, to see family, or enjoy a vacation.

Whether it is snow, sleet, or ice, winter weather can cause extremely dangerous road conditions. According to the United States Department of Transportation, in 2020, there were 372 fatal crashes, and an estimated 25,000 injury crashes that occurred in wintry conditions. To mitigate these risks, it is important to prepare

yourself and your car for wintry conditions.

According to the National Safety Council, you can prepare for winter driving conditions through the following actions:

Prepare Your Car for Winter

In addition to annual maintenance, here are some tips to winterize your car:

- Test your battery; battery power drops as the temperature drops
- Make sure the cooling system is in good working order
- Have winter tires with a deeper, more flexible tread put on your car
- If using all-season tires, check the tread on your tires and replace them if less than 2/32 of an inch
- Check the tire pressure; tire pressure drops as the temperature drops
- Check your wiper blades and replace them if needed
- Add wiper fluid rated for -30 degrees
- Keep your gas tank at least half full to avoid gas line freeze

Before You Start Out

- Clean your car's external camera lenses and side mirrors, so you will be able to see around you.
- Remove dirt, ice, and snow from sensors to allow assistive-driving features like automatic emergency braking to work
- In frigid weather, you may want to warm up the car before you drive it
- To prevent carbon monoxide poisoning, never leave a vehicle running in your garage – even with the garage door up
- If the forecast looks uncertain, wait out the storm if possible; if you must travel, share your travel plans and route with someone before you leave

How to Avoid a Crash

AAA offers the following driving tips:

- Avoid using cruise control in wintry conditions
- Steer in the direction of a skid, so that when your wheels regain traction, you do not have to overcorrect to stay in your lane
- Accelerate and decelerate slowly
- Increase following distance to 8 to 10 seconds
- If possible, do not stop when going uphill.

If visibility is severely limited, pull off the road to a safe place and do not drive until conditions improve. Avoid pulling off onto the shoulder unless it is an absolute emergency. Limited visibility means other vehicles cannot see yours on the shoulder.

Safety during the winter months is as easy as adopting simple measures to ensure that you and your car are prepared for the chilly weather. For more information, I encourage you to visit <https://www.nsc.org/community-safety/safety-topics/seasonal-safety/winter-safety/driving> or <https://www.nhtsa.gov/winter-driving-tips> for helpful tips on preparing for wintry weather and driving.

Stay aware and stay prepared!

Shannon



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