






JACKSON COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

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PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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January 21, 2025

Jackson County Provides Update on Winter Storm and Announces Warming Shelter Locations

Jackson County, FL – The Jackson County Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) is providing updated information to assist residents as we prepare for winter storm impacts. With freezing temperatures, snow, and icy roads expected to affect our area, a warming shelter with limited spacing is available to provide safe and warm accommodations for residents who do not have access to suitable shelter during the storm.

Warming Shelter Open in Jackson County

To support those affected by the severe weather, the following warming shelter is available:

- **Chipola Baptist Association/Chipola Family Ministries**
 - **Address:** 3018 Hwy 71 North, Marianna, FL 32446
 - **Hours:** 5:00 PM to 7:00 AM (*Monday, January 20 – Thursday, January 23*)
 - **Notes:** Only 15 individuals will be accommodated each night due to capacity limitations. Please bring your own pillows and blankets. No pets will be allowed.

Currently, Jackson County Emergency Management has a contingency plan in place regarding additional shelter in the event there is widespread and protracted power outage impacts in our area, and local officials are working closely with non-profits and power companies to ensure the safety and well-being of the community.

“Our Commissioners and I, along with other local government officials, are here to support our community during this unprecedented winter event,” said BOCC Chairman Jamey Westbrook. *“We have dedicated teams from Public Works, Road and Bridge, Fire Rescue, and Emergency Management working hard to serve our residents throughout this event. If you have a need or concern, please don’t hesitate to reach out to your commissioners—we’re here to help.”*

Current Weather Conditions and Impacts

The National Weather Service forecasts **2-4 inches of snowfall** along with potentially freezing rain starting as early as late Tuesday morning and continuing into Wednesday morning. Potential impacts include hazardous driving conditions, road closures, ice accumulation on trees and powerlines, and possible power outages.

Extreme cold weather is in effect tonight where **wind chills of 5 to 15 degrees** are forecast. Potential impacts include frostbite, hypothermia, damage to plants and pipes.

In preparation for the prolonged subfreezing conditions, **Jackson County's Maintenance and Public Works teams** have worked diligently to secure county buildings, recreation facilities, and utilities infrastructure. Today, **January 21, 2025**, these teams will:

- Stock drying materials to address road conditions as they arise.
- Respond to concerns with drying materials and equipment as needed.
- Maintain several employees on standby to handle urgent issues.

Safety Reminders

Residents are urged to stay off the roads unless absolutely necessary. If travel is unavoidable, drive with extreme caution and be aware of icy road conditions, especially over bridges.

Stay Informed

Jackson County Emergency Management, Fire Rescue, and various Public Works and Road and Bridge personnel will be working and remain in constant communication throughout this weather event and will be monitoring conditions and coordinating efforts with local partners. Residents are urged to monitor weather updates from the National Weather Service and local media. To learn more about severe weather in Florida and how to prepare, visit [FloridaDisaster.org](https://www.floridadisaster.org).

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District 1
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