



Shelby County Office of Preparedness

Emergency Operations Center Information Update Evening Update

January 29, 2010

Dropping Temperatures Will Make Driving Hazardous Tonight

Light rain and freezing rain continue to fall in Shelby County making driving treacherous on many roadways. Public works will spread salt and sand on bridges, overpasses and more heavily traveled streets throughout the night. Many back roads, especially those in Millington and in north Shelby County, remain covered with a layer of ice and snow.

“We were very fortunate that most of the predicted ice and snow veered away from Shelby County. Yet, with temperatures remaining at or near freezing for the next couple of days, we’ll continue to monitor any problems caused by the precipitation,” said Bob Nations, Director of the Shelby County Office of Preparedness and the Memphis and Shelby County Emergency Management Agency.

Shelby County Mayor Joe Ford, City of Memphis Mayor A C Wharton and Germantown Mayor Sharon Goldsworthy met with reporters late this afternoon. Icy roads kept the other municipal mayors close to their offices which received routine briefings throughout the day from the Emergency Operations Center.

Both Mayors Ford and Wharton praised the efforts of public works, law enforcement, fire and emergency medical agencies that quickly responded when freezing rain and snow moved into the area just after 6 a.m. Mayor Goldsworthy urged citizens to remain vigilant to changing weather conditions and to check on relatives and neighbors that are home-bound or live alone.

Earlier today, Mayor Ford declared a state of emergency which enabled Shelby County Government to better utilize resources and set aside funds to cover expenses resulting from the winter weather. Non-essential Shelby County, Memphis and Bartlett government employees were off work today or were allowed to leave their jobs early as a result of the weather.

“There have been no significant power outages in the area. As a result, no emergency shelters were opened,” added Director Nations. Police agencies throughout the county have initiated inclement weather plans. Those involved in non-injury crashes are urged to exchange insurance information and file crash reports next week.

With bitter cold temperatures expected for the next couple of days, snow and ice could linger in the area until Monday morning. For more information contact the Emergency Operations Center at **(901) 515-2525**.

(End of Release)

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