

BEFORE THE STORM (24–48 HOURS AHEAD)

- * 1. Charge all phones, power banks, tablets, and rechargeable lanterns.
- * 2. Fill vehicle gas tanks in case stations lose power.
- * 3. Get cash in small bills in case card systems go down.
- * 4. Pick up prescriptions and essential medications early.
- * 5. Download movies, books, and maps for offline use.
- * 6. Identify one warm room in the house to “camp out” if power fails.
- * 7. Locate water shut-off valve and breaker box now, not later.
- * 8. Set fridge and freezer to colder settings to hold temperature longer.

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WATER AND PIPE PROTECTION

- * 9. Drip faucets on exterior walls when temps drop below freezing.
- * 10. Open cabinet doors under sinks to allow warm air circulation.
- * 11. Disconnect garden hoses from outdoor spigots.
- * 12. Cover outdoor faucets with insulated caps or towels.
- * 13. Know how to shut off water quickly if a pipe bursts.
- * 14. Fill jugs, buckets, or bathtub with water for flushing and washing.

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FOOD AND KITCHEN PREP

- * 15. Keep 3–5 days of no-cook food: peanut butter, tuna, bread, crackers, canned meat, fruit cups.
- * 16. Have manual can opener available.
- * 17. Buy shelf-stable milk or powdered milk if needed.
- * 18. Freeze a few water bottles to act as freezer “ice packs.”
- * 19. Keep a cooler ready to move fridge food outside if power is out and temps are below freezing.
- * 20. Avoid stocking large amounts of perishables right before the storm.

HEAT AND HOME SAFETY

- * 21. Gather extra blankets, sleeping bags, and warm layers.
- * 22. If using a fireplace, confirm chimney is clear and have dry wood.
- * 23. Never run generators or grills inside garages or homes.
- * 24. Test smoke and carbon-monoxide detectors.
- * 25. Have at least one flashlight per person plus spare batteries.
- * 26. Use battery lanterns instead of candles when possible.

VEHICLE AND TRAVEL

- * 27. Plan to avoid driving once freezing rain begins.
- * 28. Bridges, overpasses, and shaded roads freeze first.
- * 29. Keep in the car: blanket, water, snacks, phone charger, gloves.
- * 30. Replace old wiper blades and top off washer fluid.
- * 31. Park away from large tree limbs when possible.

POWER OUTAGE PLAN

- ✳ 33. Unplug sensitive electronics to avoid surge damage.
- ✳ 34. Keep one battery radio or weather app for updates.
- ✳ 35. Use surge protectors for TVs and computers.
- ✳ 36. Know where warming centers may be in your parish.
- ✳ 37. Have extension cords ready if using a generator outside.
- ✳ 38. Keep refrigerator closed to preserve cold air.

PETS AND LIVESTOCK

- * 39. Bring pets indoors with extra food and water.
- * 40. Provide outdoor animals with unfrozen water sources.
- * 41. Add straw or blankets to outdoor shelters.
- * 42. Keep leashes and carriers accessible in case of evacuation.

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MEDICAL AND SPECIAL NEEDS

- * 43. Keep a written list of medications and dosages.
- * 44. Store a small first-aid kit with thermometer and basic meds.
- * 45. Have backup batteries for medical devices.
- * 46. Identify a place with power you could relocate to if needed.

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PROPERTY PROTECTION

- * 47. Move vehicles away from trees or power lines.
- * 48. Secure outdoor furniture and lightweight items.
- * 49. Avoid trimming trees during the storm—do it beforehand.
- * 50. Photograph property for insurance before conditions worsen.

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DURING THE STORM

- * 51. Do not drive unless absolutely necessary.
- * 52. Assume downed lines are live and dangerous.
- * 53. Use only safe indoor heating methods.
- * 54. Check on neighbors, especially elderly, by phone if possible.
- * 55. Report outages to utility companies rather than 911 unless it's an emergency.

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AFTER THE STORM

- * 56. Walk carefully—ice may refreeze overnight.
- * 57. Check pipes for leaks as temperatures rise.
- * 58. Throw out refrigerated food if above 40°F for more than 4 hours.
- * 59. Avoid DIY electrical repairs around downed lines.
- * 60. Be patient—restoring power after ice can take several days.

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KEY REALITY FOR SOUTHERN ICE EVENTS

- * A quarter inch of ice can bring scattered outages.
- * Half an inch can cripple travel and power for days.
- * Ice is more dangerous than snow for the Deep South