

Office of Mayor Charles Caillouet City of Thibodaux

For IMMEDIATE RELEASE: January 7, 2010

Safety Tips and Assistance Offered for Extreme Wintry Conditions

Thibodaux, LA - Mayor Charles Caillouet received the following press release from the Lafourche Parish Government and would like Thibodaux residents to have access to the following. The release, below, in its entirety, was received at 9:30 am this morning. Mayor Caillouet said, "I ask all residents to read the following information and when traveling, heed the advice of the Louisiana State Police."

Parish Offers Safety Tips, Assistance for Extreme Wintry Conditions

With below freezing conditions expected over the next several nights, officials with the Lafourche Parish Office of Emergency Preparedness have coordinated with the Department of Public Works as well as the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development to have materials and personnel on stand-by in case bridges need to be cleared of ice.

Louisiana State Police Troop C wants to warn drivers to not brake suddenly in icy road conditions, as this may cause loss of control of the vehicle. Instead, gently apply the brakes (if needed) and steer in the direction of the skid without overcorrecting. The most likely place to encounter icy conditions over the next few days will be on bridges and overpasses. Use extreme caution when crossing these elevated structures, even if there is no rain and the roadway appears dry.

The Lafourche Parish Office of Emergency Preparedness also offers the following safety tips from State Fire Marshal Butch Browning for maintaining a fire-safe home during these extremely cold temperatures:

- Never use a range or an oven as a supplemental heating device. Not only is it a safety hazard, but if the flame goes out on a gas stove, your family would be at serious risk of carbon monoxide poisoning.
- Avoid using electrical space heaters in bathrooms, or other areas where they may come in contact with water. If you must use one, be sure not to overload the

circuit. Choose an extension cord the same amp size or larger than the appliance electrical cord.

- Before you go to sleep, be sure your fireplace fire is out. NEVER close your damper with hot ashes in the fireplace. A closed damper will help the fire to heat up again and will force toxic carbon monoxide into the house. Also, never burn charcoal indoors.
- Be sure every level of your home has a working smoke alarm, and be sure to check it and clean it on a monthly basis.

If anyone is in a potentially life-threatening situation due to the freezing weather conditions, contact the Lafourche Parish Office of Emergency Preparedness for assistance at (985) 537-7603.

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