

Subject line: **Are you prepared for winter?**

Hello Jane,

Winter is on the way and there are a few things you should know to breeze through these cold months, even in your apartment.

A few helpful [terms](#) to know:

- Freezing rain – rain that freezes on contact with roads, trees and sidewalks.
- Winter storm warning – a winter storm is occurring or will begin soon.
- Winter storm watch – a winter storm is possible in the area.
- Freeze warnings – sub-freezing temperatures expected in 36 hours.

To prepare, you should have a disaster supply kit. It should contain enough water to last three days, a flashlight, battery-powered radio, 3-day supply of non-perishable foods, first-aid kit, sleeping bags and blankets, essential medications and specific items needed for personal care.

Your apartment complex should have procedures in place to protect the pipes. However, you should allow your faucets to drip during freeze warnings. Be careful if you have to turn to alternate heating sources and take safety precautions. Alert your apartment maintenance if your heat or electricity goes out, or if a pipe bursts.

Stay informed by getting alerts from your apartment complex and registering for emergency notifications [here](#). Ensure you can receive alerts by verifying you have a portable charger. You can also stay up to date on weather occurrences [here](#).

Visit our [website](#) for more information.

**Makayla Smith**

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# McLennan County Emergency Management



Oct. 8, 2021

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Smith,

Are you ready for the fast-approaching winter weather? If not, here's how you can be prepared, no matter the weather this season.

**Refill** your disaster supply kit or create one. This kit should include water, a battery-powered radio, flashlight, extra batteries, non-perishable food, first aid and essential medications, warm clothing and blankets and any special items needed.

**Place** a thermometer in a location where you will see it frequently to monitor the temperature of your home. Remember to dress warm by wearing layers of loose-fitting clothing when you go outside. Listen to weather forecasts regularly and visit [www.weather.gov](http://www.weather.gov) to stay up to date on weather developments.

**Insulate** water lines and pipes that run along exterior walls and allow faucets to drip a little to avoid freezing. Remember to use safety precautions when using alternate heating sources. Avoid travel if you can, but if you must, have a mechanic check your car.

**Refer** to the Emergency Operations Center in the case of a major disaster. Make sure you understand your local Emergency Management office's current shelter plans. For more information, contact the office at 254-750-5911.

The shelters most accessible to people with disabilities or other functional and access needs, in order of accessibility, are:

- Waco Multipurpose Center
- South Waco Recreation Center
- Cameron Park Clubhouse

Sincerely,

McLennan County Emergency Management

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