



**For Immediate Release**

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**Contact: Janine Reyes, City of Kingsville PIO**

**City of Kingsville Preparing Severe Weather, Residents Urged to Remain Weather Aware & Prepare**

KINGSVILLE, TX – The City of Kingsville is closely monitoring winter weather conditions that have an increasing chance of bringing freezing rain and dangerously cold conditions to our region through Tuesday morning.

Please take precautions to prepare your family, pets, plants and pipes for this potentially hazardous weather event now. City staff recommends all citizens acquire the necessary supplies to include medication, food, water and batteries. It's advised to make sure your vehicles have a full tank of gas and all cell phones fully charged.

The City of Kingsville Health-Animal Control Department recommends you bring your outdoor pets inside. Crews will be patrolling the city to remind citizens of pet safety and can impound animals left in harsh weather without adequate protection. Outdoor pets should have access to a well-insulated shelter with a heat source and dry bedding. When temperatures drop to around 20°F, the potential for frostbite and hypothermia increases significantly for your animals.

In preparing your home for freezing temperatures, make sure you cover any exposed pipes. When the temperature drops below 32°F, pipes can freeze and burst. You can cover pipes with insulation or use a heat lamp to help prevent freezing. Plants will also need to be protected from freezing temperature. Experts recommend bringing potted plants inside, you may want to place a blanket over outdoor plants to prevent damage from cold weather.

Freezing rain is a potential hazard in the forecast from Sunday through Tuesday. City of Kingsville Public Works is prepared to dust any city bridges and icy spots as required. City of Kingsville Chief of Police Ricardo Torres says TXDOT will be monitoring road conditions and overpasses in our area and will apply anti-icing measures as needed; Chief Torres suggests drivers take precautions if it is necessary to be on the roads. Always avoid risky driving behaviors and make sure you slow your vehicle down to operate safely in conditions that exist.

Should you have to operate a space heater in your home to stay warm in the days ahead, please make sure to operate the device safely. Never leave a space heater unattended and keep space heaters at least three feet away from anything that can burn. Kleberg County will be hosting a Warm Zone this weekend beginning Saturday, February 13<sup>th</sup> through Monday, February 15<sup>th</sup> at the Human Services Building located at 1109 East Santa Gertrudis Street. Anyone needing transportation can call (361) 455-5034. It is recommended residents bring extra blankets to the Warm Zone.

Due to inclement weather, Christus Spohn Kleberg has rescheduled their February 15<sup>th</sup> second dose vaccine clinic. Individuals scheduled for a second dose on Monday will be able to receive their second dose Tuesday, February 16<sup>th</sup> at the hospital beginning at 9 a.m. Please remember this clinic is only for individuals who were vaccinated January 25<sup>th</sup> at Christus Spohn Kleberg, you must bring your vaccine card for entry.

Please remember the City of Kingsville is closed in observance of President's Day Monday and trash service will not take place until Tuesday. Additionally, the fixed COVID-19 testing site will be closed for the holiday on Monday. Despite the holiday closure, all city departments are preparing to respond to potentially hazardous conditions this inclement weather may cause.

You may get the most up-to-date and accurate information on the official City of Kingsville Facebook page.

Media may direct inquiries to Janine Reyes, City of Kingsville PIO at (361) 455-5946.

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