



# The MWN Newsletter

*All the Weather You Need for  
Memphis and the Mid-South*

## **WINTER is (almost) here!!**

Welcome to the third edition of **The MWN Newsletter!** Though we are not quite officially into winter yet (see the box to the right), now is the time to start looking ahead. This edition of **The MWN Newsletter** will focus on winter weather. And though Mid-South winters aren't as brutal as they are in Chicago, it does tend to catch people off-guard more easily. (This edition's topic does not constitute a forecast of winter precipitation – sorry to disappoint!) Let's do some preparation...

## **WINTER WEATHER WATCHES AND WARNINGS**

Now is a good time for a refresher on the different types of winter weather watches, warnings, and advisories that could be issued by the Memphis office of the National Weather Service. Remember that a watch is issued when conditions are *favorable* for the development of adverse weather; a warning is issued when the conditions are *imminent* or there is a *high probability* of them occurring.

**Winter Weather Advisory** – Perhaps the most frequently issued winter weather product for the Memphis area. Expect one with:

- Snow accumulation of more than 1" but less than warning criteria
- Sleet or freezing rain less than warning criteria

**Winter Storm Watch/Warning** – Usually issued when a mix of precipitation will occur and any or all of the following conditions will be met:

- Snow accumulation of 3" or more in 12 hours or 4" or more in 24 hours
- Ice (freezing rain) accumulation of 1/4" or more
- Sleet accumulation of 1/2" or more

**Ice Storm Warning** – Ice storms can pose the most dangerous conditions to the general public. Issued when ice accumulations of 1/4" or more are forecast that will make travel extremely hazardous and damage to trees and power lines is expected. Little to no snow expected.

**Snow Advisory** – Issued when snow accumulations are expected that will not reach warning criteria. Ice and sleet are not forecast.

**WEATHER FACT:** *The Winter Solstice (the official start of winter and the shortest day of the year) occurs on December 22<sup>nd</sup> at 12:08am CST. For meteorologists, "winter" is defined as the three-month period of December-January-February.*

## **DRIVING IN WINTER WEATHER**

So what items should you have in your car in case a winter storm threatens the area? At a minimum:

- Window scraper and small broom or shovel
- Flashlight and extra batteries
- Battery-powered radio/weather radio
- Water and snacks
- Blanket(s) or extra hat/socks/mittens
- Booster cables and tow chain or rope
- First-aid kit
- A well-maintained vehicle (especially good tires and at least a 1/2 tank of gas)

Most importantly, remember that we are in the South! **SLOW DOWN** and drive with caution, assuming that those around you will not!

## **THANK YOU!**

I hope you have enjoyed reading this edition of **The MWN Newsletter!** While there is no "official" release schedule, I hope to be able to bring you a new edition every month or so. Of course, if there is something noteworthy weather-wise, I'll be sure to keep you posted. **The MWN Newsletter** is sent via e-mail to subscribers, as well as posted on the web at [www.MemphisWeather.Net](http://www.MemphisWeather.Net). Feel free to pass it on to your friends, family, and colleagues, giving them an opportunity to receive this valuable information too!

Don't forget to visit <http://www.MemphisWeather.Net> soon and often! You are the reason that the site exists and I appreciate *each and every* visit.

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