



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 22nd 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. 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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