



Texas Winter Storm

January 23, 2026

Office of the Governor

Governor Greg Abbott
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Press release on Governor Gregg Abbott's website on January 22, 2026.

“Governor Greg Abbott today provided an update on Texas’ ongoing response to severe winter weather expected to impact large portions of the state this weekend following a briefing with state officials at the State Operations Center in Austin. The Governor also [issued a disaster declaration](#) for 134 counties to ensure that every necessary resource is made available to Texans.

“Whenever we go through any type of disaster, job number one is always protecting lives,” said Governor Abbott. “Because of the severity of this storm, right now I am making a disaster declaration covering 134 counties across the state of Texas to make sure that every possible resource can be made available to those communities so the state can respond quicker, faster, and better than ever before. We have an outstanding team that is already prepared, already responding, to make sure that, even though we’re going to go through a harsh winter storm, we’re going to make it through this process.”

During his remarks, the Governor emphasized the importance of road safety, encouraging Texans to remain off the road unless absolutely necessary. Governor Abbott also touted the additional natural gas capabilities of the state’s electrical grid, noting that the ERCOT grid has never been stronger or more prepared and is fully capable of handling this winter storm. Additionally, the Governor called on all Texans to gather resources and provisions needed to prepare for below freezing temperatures, snow, rain, and sleet, through the next few days.

[Watch the Governor’s press conference here.](#)

Governor Abbott directed the Texas Division of Emergency Management (TDEM) to increase the readiness level of the Texas State Operations Center to Level II (Escalated Response). Earlier this week, Governor Abbott directed TDEM to activate state emergency response resources in anticipation of severe winter weather.

Additionally, the Texas Department of Public Safety issued a waiver allowing commercial truck drivers transporting goods like propane, groceries, and other essential products, to operate outside maximum driving hour requirements, helping to ensure the delivery and availability of critical resources to Texans throughout the state during this weather event. This waiver will be active for five days, and drivers will still be subject to all other commercial vehicle laws and regulations.

Texans are encouraged to visit the [TDEM Disaster Portal](#) for winter weather information. Texans can also locate winter weather safety tips by visiting [TexasReady.gov](#), find warming centers opened and operated by local officials at [tdem.texas.gov/warm](#), and check road conditions at [DriveTexas.org](#).

Additional photos of the event will be provided here when available..

Press release on Governor Gregg Abbott's website on January 20, 2026.

“Governor Greg Abbott announced that he directed the Texas Division of Emergency Management (TDEM) to activate state emergency response resources ahead of potential winter weather impacts expected across the state beginning Thursday.

“Based on current forecasts, the State of Texas is acting to ensure Texans have the resources they need before severe winter weather impacts communities across Texas,” said Governor Abbott. “As temperatures could drop below freezing and regions of Texas face snow, ice, and freezing rain, it is crucial that Texans remain weather-aware, check DriveTexas.org before traveling, and heed the guidance of state and local officials. I thank emergency management personnel and first responders for working tirelessly to keep Texans safe.”

According to the National Weather Service, an arctic cold front is expected to bring dangerously cold temperatures and wind-chills to the state through the early part of next week. Additionally, a storm system is expected to move through the state, bringing the possibility of freezing rain, sleet, and snow that could create hazardous travel conditions into the weekend and cause impacts to infrastructure. Areas most at risk of wintry weather are northwest, north, and northeast Texas. Freezing rain and sleet are more likely to impact areas across west, central, south-central, east, and southeast Texas. Cold rain is expected for areas in deep south Texas and the Rio Grande Valley.

At the direction of the Governor, TDEM has activated the following state emergency response resources to support weather response operations:

- **Texas Department of Transportation:** Winter weather roadway equipment and crews pre-treating and treating roadways; personnel and equipment to assist with traffic control and road closures
- **Texas Division of Emergency Management:** The State of Texas Incident Management Team; personnel working with local partners to update warming center maps
- **Texas National Guard:** High-profile vehicles and personnel to support stranded motorists
- **Texas A&M Forest Service (Texas Intrastate Fire Mutual Aid System):** All-Hazard Strike Teams consisting of firefighters, engines, and equipment such as motor graders to assist with snow/ice clearance; saw crews
- **Texas Parks and Wildlife Department:** Game Wardens to support local law enforcement; high-profile vehicles to assist stranded motorists
- **Public Utility Commission of Texas:** Power outage monitoring and coordinating with utility providers across the threat area
- **Railroad Commission of Texas:** Monitoring of the state's natural gas supply and communication with the oil and gas industry
- **Texas Commission on Environmental Quality:** Air/water/wastewater monitoring
- **Texas Department of Public Safety:** Texas Highway Patrol Troopers to patrol Texas roadways
- **Texas A&M Engineering Extension Service (Public Works Response Team):** Personnel to assist with public works needs
- **Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service:** Disaster Assessment and Recovery Agents
- **Texas Department of State Health Services (Emergency Medical Task Force):** Winter and Severe Weather Packages including medics and ambulances
- **Texas Health and Human Services Commission:** Personnel to provide information on available services through the 2-1-1 Texas Information Referral Network
- **Texas Education Agency:** Monitoring school district needs across the state
- **Texas Department of Information Resources:** Monitoring technology infrastructure

Texans are urged to stay weather-aware, check road conditions before any necessary travel, and follow instructions from local officials.

Texans can access winter weather safety tips by visiting TexasReady.gov, check road conditions at DriveTexas.org, find warming centers opened and operated by local officials at tdem.texas.gov/warm, and find general preparedness information at tdem.texas.gov/prepare.

Office of Emergency Management and Homeland Security Agency

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Del Valle, TX 78617
(512) 424-2208

[Texas Division of Emergency Management](#)
[Texas Division of Emergency Management | Del Valle TX | Facebook](#)
[Texas Division of Emergency Management \(@TDEM\) / X](#)
[Texas Division of Emergency Management \(@tdemtv\) • Instagram photos and videos](#)

American Red Cross

American Red Cross – North Texas Region
2055 Kendall Dr.
Dallas, TX 75235
(214) 678-4800

[North Texas | Dallas | American Red Cross](#)
[American Red Cross Greater North Texas | Facebook](#)
[Red Cross North Texas Region \(@redcrossntx\) • Instagram photos and videos](#)

American Red Cross – Central & South Texas Region
4800 Manor Rd, Building K, Room 251
Austin, TX 78723
(512) 928-4271

[Central & South Texas | Texas Region | American Red Cross](#)
[American Red Cross Serving Central and South Texas | Austin TX | Facebook](#)
[Red Cross Central & South Texas \(@redcrosscstr\) • Instagram photos and videos](#)

Please see the following link for the most updated information on available shelters: [Disaster Shelters | Find Shelters | American Red Cross](#)

Open Shelters: Please note that there are no current shelters open.

Department of Transportation

Texas Department of Transportation
125 E 11th Street
Austin, TX 78701
(512) 463-8588

[Texas Department of Transportation](#)
[Texas Department of Transportation | Facebook](#)
[TxDOT Twitter feeds](#)
[DriveTexas | Roadway Conditions](#)

United Way/211 Information and Referrals Lines

These information and referral lines may know of additional resources currently providing assistance, such as food pantries, clothing closets, emergency shelters, and agencies offering financial assistance. Please dial 2-1-1 and provide your zip code and demographic information in order to receive referrals. Information can also be obtained at [Call 211 for Essential Community Services | United Way 211](#).

2-1-1 Texas

Call 211 or (877) 541-7905.

[2-1-1 Texas | Texas Health And Human Services Commission](#)

Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)

(800) 621-3362

[FEMA.gov](#)

Please visit the website and click on “*Disaster Declarations*”. If a disaster is declared, please call to apply for assistance by phone, or visit: [Individual Assistance | FEMA.gov](#) to apply online.

DisasterAssistance.gov

[Home | disasterassistance.gov](#)

Offers information about local resources for disasters, including: FEMA Disaster Recovery Centers (DRCs), Red Cross, food, shelter, state emergency management agencies, and hospital locators.

To determine if individual disaster assistance is available through FEMA, please visit the website and enter the address.

To locate your local state emergency management agency for disaster information and updates, please visit: [Search Your Location | FEMA.gov](#)

American Red Cross National

(800) 733-2767

[American Red Cross | Help Those Affected by Disasters](#)

National Weather Service

Weather alerts by state are available at: [Active Alerts \(weather.gov\)](#).

The Weather Channel

Local forecasts and severe weather.

[National and Local Weather Radar, Daily Forecast, Hurricane and information from The Weather Channel and weather.com.](#)

Safe Travel USA

[SafeTravelUSA](#)

National Traffic And Road Closure Information

[National Traffic and Road Closure Information | Federal Highway Administration \(dot.gov\)](#)

Free Help Line

Optum, a leading health and behavioral health services company, is offering a free emotional-support help line.

The toll-free number, 866-447-3573, will be open Monday-Friday, 8am-8pm CST. The service is free of charge and open to anyone. Specially trained Optum mental health specialists help people manage their stress and anxiety so they can continue to address their everyday needs. Callers may also receive referrals to community resources to help them with specific concerns, including financial and legal matters.

Along with the toll-free help line, emotional-support resources and information are available online at <https://www.liveandworkwell.com>.