



Healthcare and Public Health Sector

Region 6 Winter Weather/Energy Emergency

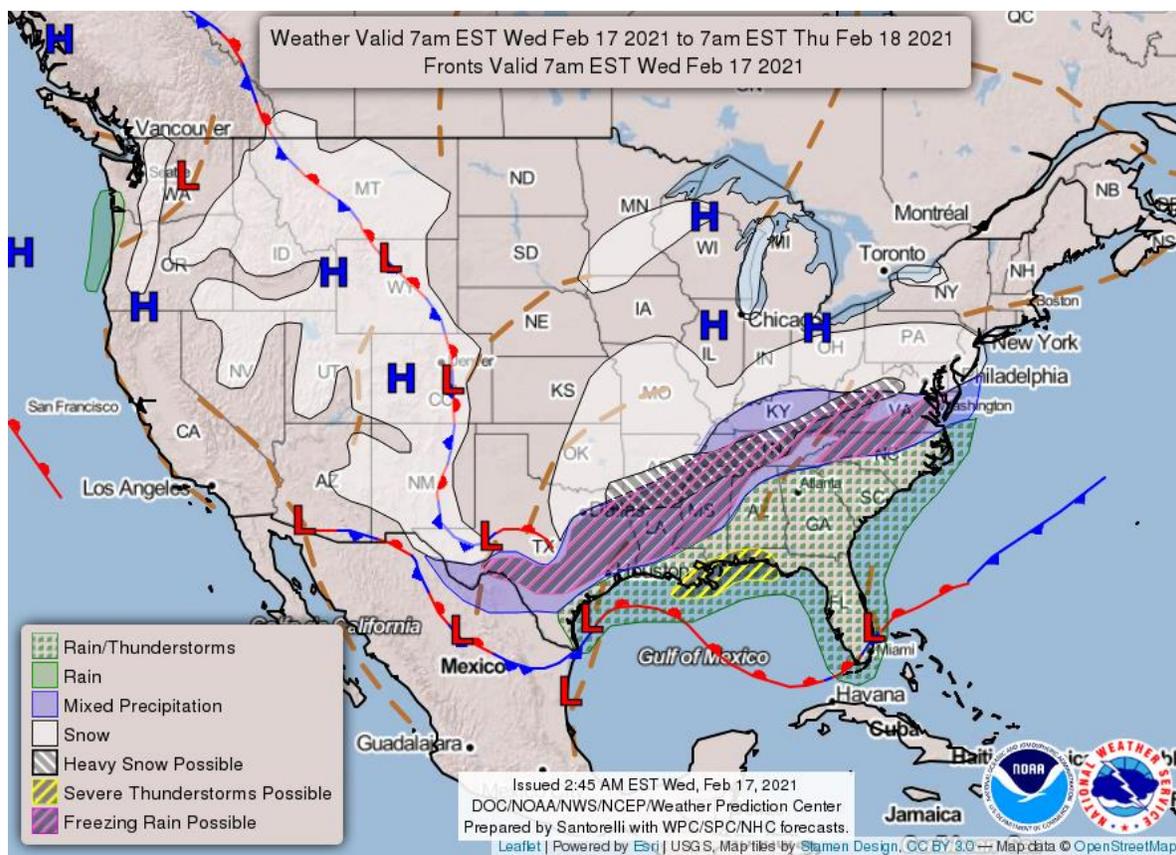
2/17/2021

Winter Weather Update

Millions of Americans nationwide are experiencing major winter storms that continue to bring large areas of snow, sleet, and freezing rain significantly impacting travel and causing widespread power outages. Many remain under winter storm/ice warnings, watches, and advisories. The winter weather is increasing energy demands due to the extreme cold and reduced energy generation due to natural gas well “freeze-offs”, icing on wind turbines, and heavy cloud coverage reducing solar power generation.

Cold Weather Resources:

- ASPR's Technical Resources, Assistance Center, and Information Exchange offers a variety of cold weather resources:
 - [Healthcare System Preparedness for Secondary Disasters during COVID-19](#)
 - [Utility Failures Topic Collection](#)
 - [Natural Disasters Topic Collection](#)
 - [Lessons Learned: Extreme Cold](#)
 - [Plans, Tools, and Templates: Extreme Cold](#)
 - [Healthcare Facility Evacuation / Sheltering Topic Collection](#)
 - [Extreme Cold Weather for Alternative Care Sites](#)



Key Updates

Declarations:

- President Biden approved an [Emergency Declaration](#) for Texas, providing assistance in all 254 Texas counties beginning on February 11, 2021 and continuing.

Healthcare and Public Health:

- Multiple hospital facilities in Region 6 are operating on generator power. Additional issues such as water pipe breakages and heating issues continue to be reported.
- As of 0700 ET February 17, 15 states including Texas, Louisiana, and Oklahoma have reported COVID-19 vaccination site closures due to the ongoing storms and will reschedule appointments once the storms have passed.
- The [HHS emPOWER Map](#) displays the total number of Medicare beneficiaries reliant on electricity-dependent durable medical and assistive equipment down to the Zip Code. Severe weather and other emergencies, especially those with prolonged power outages, can be life threatening for these individuals.

Energy:

- Power restoration activities continue to take place with approximately 3.2 million Texas customers and 45,000 Louisiana customers without power.
- The Electric Reliability Council of Texas (ERCOT) has issued an [Energy Emergency Alert \(EEA\) level 3](#) due to electricity demand being very high. Reserves have dropped below 1,000 MW and are not expected to recover within 30 minutes; as a result, ERCOT has ordered transmission companies to reduce demand on the system.
 - 60 generators and associated equipment from FEMA have been requested and are staged with priority for generator use in hospitals and nursing homes.
- The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) reports natural gas processing plant outages have caused producers to curtail natural gas production in some regions, especially in Texas.
- Several refineries across the Gulf Coast have shut down production either due to the cold weather directly or due to power outages.

Water:

- Abilene, Texas (population of 124,156) issued a boil water notice as water restoration efforts continue after a shut off water to all three of its water treatment plants due to power outages.
- Fort Worth, Texas has issued a [Boil Water Notice](#) due to multiple power outages and rolling blackouts at the Eagle Mountain Water Plant and raw water pumping station.
 - The Boil Water Notice is affecting approximately 212,000 customers in a large portion of the north Fort Worth area.

Transportation:

- George Bush Intercontinental and William P. Hobby Airfields have [re-opened](#).
- In Louisiana Baton Rouge Airport re-opened, I-49 remains closed from US-167 to LA-498, and I-55 closed from LA-10 to Mississippi State line .
- Road closure information is available for [Louisiana](#) and [Texas](#).

Shelters:

- Approximately 76 shelters in Texas are open, serving a total of 1,681 occupants.

Federal Posture:

- U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Federal Emergency Management Administration, and DOE personnel and assets are engaged in Region 6 to support potential public health or medical needs.

Requests for Information:

- Please share any anticipated high level concerns, challenges, or lack of concerns with cip@hhs.gov.

Virtual Resources

- Social Media:
 - TX: [@TDEM](#)
 - LA: [@GOHSEP](#)
 - AR: [@AR_Emergencies](#)
 - NM: [@NMDHSEM](#)
 - OK: [@okem](#)
- The NBEOC [Dashboard](#) includes additional resources.
- [NOAA](#) provides forecasts, warnings, and maps.

Comments and Questions

If you have comments or questions, send an email to CIP@hhs.gov. The CIP team will work to answer your inquiries or connect you to the proper entity.

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[U.S. Department of Health & Human Services, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness & Response](#)

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