



## ***MEDIA RELEASE***

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**Contact:** Ted Martin, Fire Chief [tmartin@bransonmo.gov](mailto:tmartin@bransonmo.gov)  
(417) 243-2790, Office or (417) 332-7112, Cell

### **Branson Fire Department Urges Winter Weather Preparedness**

BRANSON, Mo – As winter weather season approaches, the Branson Fire Department wants to remind residents and community members to prepare for snow, ice, freezing temperatures, freezing rain and even blizzard conditions.

“As we’ve seen in the region, the aftermath of any of these, especially ice storms, may impact our community for days or even weeks after it happens,” said Branson Fire Chief and Emergency Management Director, Ted Martin. “Now is the time to make sure you are prepared.”

This means you should have basic resources in your home, such as a weather radio with fresh batteries, a supply of non-perishable food, bottled water, rock salt and an alternate fuel source. If you use fossil fuels such as propane, natural gas or kerosene make sure to have a Carbon Monoxide detector nearby.

Don’t forget to winterize your car and put in a winter car kit that includes a blanket, hat, gloves, flashlight, booster cables and a first aid kit. If you must drive in a winter storm slow down, allow more time to get to your destination, drive defensively, wear a seatbelt and keep your headlights on. Let someone know your travel route and time to expect you. If you are caught in your car in dangerous winter conditions, remain in your car and wait for help.

During severe winter weather, Branson residents can stay informed of what is happening locally, by tuning into local media outlets, purchasing a weather radio and signing up for BransonALERTS by clicking “Emergency Alerts” here: <http://bransonmo.gov/300/Services>.

You should also familiarize yourself with winter weather terms used by the National Weather Service:

**Winter Storm Watch** - severe winter weather may affect your area.

**Winter Storm Warning** - severe weather conditions are definitely on the way and to take precautions.

**Ice Storm Warning** – This is issued when ice accumulations of a quarter-inch or more may be expected.

For more information about preparing for winter weather, contact the Branson Fire Department at 417-243-8580.

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