



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **Citizens Urged to Take Precautionary Measures as Temperatures Drop**

**New Braunfels, Texas** — Cold weather settling over our area is dramatically lowering temperatures and the City of New Braunfels Fire Department recommends that citizens take the following precautionary measures:

- Only use heating devices that are rated and approved for indoor use and keep combustible materials at least three feet away from all heating equipment.
- Make sure gas-fired appliances are properly maintained and in good working order. Improperly functioning gas-fired appliances can produce carbon monoxide, a deadly gas that is colorless, odorless and tasteless. If you suspect your appliance is malfunctioning, or you have been exposed to carbon monoxide, turn off the appliance, open the windows and doors, evacuate the area and call 911.
- If you are going to use a fireplace or similar device for the first time, make sure that the fire box, damper and flue are all properly cleaned and maintained. Use a fireplace screen in front of the chimney, ensure ashes are cold before discarding and store them in a metal container away from the house.
- Test your smoke detectors to make certain they are working properly and if you do not have smoke detectors, contact the New Braunfels Fire Department at 830-221-4200.
- Call 911 if you smell smoke or a burning odor when using your central heating unit or furnace.
- Turn off water sprinkler systems to help prevent runoff from potentially freezing on streets and sidewalks and don't use manual sprinklers during below freezing periods.
- When temperatures dip below freezing and precipitation is predicted, avoid travel as bridges, overpasses and eventually roadways may become coated with ice and extremely hazardous.
- Bring pets indoors when it is below freezing and protect tender vegetation.
- If you must go outside, wear several layers of loose-fitting clothing, gloves, a hat and stay dry.

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