

WINTER WEATHER

While the frequency of extreme winter weather events is relatively small in Alabama, winter weather can cause death, injury, and property damage. With the start of each new season, **preparation** is the key to lessening the dangers and hazards associated with winter weather.

ALABAMA TEMPERATURE AND SNOWFALL EXTREMES:

Lowest Recorded Temperatures

City	Temp (°F)	Date
Huntsville	-11	01/30/1966, 01/21/1985
Muscle Shoals	-13	02/14/1905
Birmingham	-10	02/13/1899
Montgomery	-5	02/13/1899
Mobile	-1	02/13/1899



Most Snow in 24 Hours

City	Amount (in)	Date
Huntsville	17.1	12/31-01/01, 1964
Muscle Shoals	12	02/11-12, 1910
Birmingham	13	03/12-13, 1993
Montgomery	11	12/05-06, 1886
Mobile	6	02/14-15, 1895

WINTER TERMINOLOGY

Winter Storm/Ice Storm Warning: Issued when a combination of significant accumulations of snow, freezing rain, or sleet is expected. Winter Storm Warnings are usually issued within 24 hours before the event is expected.

Winter Storm Watch: Alerts the public to the potential for winter storm conditions within the next 12 to 36 hours.

Winter Weather Advisory: Issued when accumulations of snow, freezing rain/drizzle, or sleet are expected to cause hazardous driving conditions.

Freezing Rain Advisory: Issued when accumulations of ice from freezing rain are expected to cause hazardous driving conditions.

Sleet: Rain drops that freeze into ice pellets before reaching the ground. Sleet usually bounces when hitting a surface and does not stick to objects. However, it can accumulate like snow and cause a hazard to motorists and pedestrians.

Freezing Rain: Rain that falls onto a surface with a temperature below freezing (32°F). This causes it to freeze to surfaces, such as trees, cars, and roads, forming a coating or glaze of ice. Even small accumulations of ice can cause a significant hazard.