Potential winter storm is approaching

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Posted by Breck Scott

A winter storm is expected early next week, and Caddo Parish Sheriff Henry Whitehorn, Sr. urges residents to check on elderly neighbors. Cold weather increases the risk of hypothermia, which can be life-threatening. Symptoms include confusion, fatigue, shivering, and numbness.

"Winter weather is especially tough on our senior citizens," Whitehorn stated. "Stay in touch with elderly neighbors, especially those who live alone or have disabilities."

The Caddo Parish Sheriff's Office (CPSO) recommends the following safety precautions for seniors:

- Keep your head, ears, hands, and feet warm by wearing a hat or scarf.
- Dress in layers to better insulate against the cold, and change out of wet clothes immediately.
- Avoid alcohol, as it increases the risk of hypothermia. Seek medical help for any suspected hypothermia cases.

Indoor Safety Tips:

- Ensure fuel-burning appliances are well-ventilated and inspected to prevent carbon monoxide poisoning.
- Use electric heaters carefully to avoid shock or fire hazards.
- Keep flammable materials at least three feet away from heat sources.
- Only use indoor-approved heating equipment.

For pets, the Sheriff advises:

- Provide warm shelter.
- Remove poisonous substances like antifreeze.
- Bang on your car's hood before starting the engine to avoid harming hidden animals.

The Caddo Sheriff’s Office will monitor winter conditions and share emergency updates on their Facebook and Instagram pages.