



PVAMU EXPERTS AVAILABLE TO EXPLAIN TEXAS ICE STORM IMPACTS USING LESSONS FROM WINTER STORM URI

*The University's faculty research team goes beyond the forecast to examine the **cause-and-effect** of extreme weather and what Texans can do to remain prepared.*

PRAIRIE VIEW, Texas (January 25, 2026)- Prairie View A&M University experts view extreme climate disruptions as opportunities to advance research, strengthen preparedness, and educate communities on effective response and mitigation strategies. As an ice storm blankets large portions of Texas, researchers at PVAMU offer timely insight into how extreme winter weather stresses critical systems such as electricity, public water supply, agriculture, and public health, and how communities can reduce risks through preparedness and early warning.

Faculty within Prairie View A&M University's College of Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources' Water-Energy-Food (WEF) Nexus Research Group have published peer-reviewed studies on major Texas disasters, including Winter Storm Uri, Hurricane Harvey, and flooding-related events. Their work examines how extreme weather can trigger cascading failures across interconnected systems and explores strategies to improve resilience, particularly for vulnerable communities.

"Winter Storm Uri taught us that prolonged cold can trigger a chain reaction; power outages lead to water system failures, which then affect public health and food access," said Dr. Ali Fares, Regents Professor of Water Security and leader of PVAMU's WEF Nexus research efforts. "These same patterns are relevant today as Texas once again faces freezing temperatures and infrastructure stress."

The team's research shows that duration of extreme cold, not just intensity, is a major driver of system breakdowns. Their findings emphasize the importance of early warning communication and preparedness planning that consider **water, energy, and food systems** together rather than separately.

PVAMU researchers are available for interviews to discuss:

- Key lessons from Winter Storm Uri that apply to the current storm
- Why winter storms cause cascading infrastructure failures
- How forecasting and modeling can improve emergency response
- What communities and households can do to reduce risk

Available Experts:

- **Dr. Ali Fares**, Regents Professor of Water Security and Water-Energy-Food Nexus
Expert in hydrology, climate impacts and infrastructure resilience; editor of *Climate Change and Extreme Events* (Elsevier) and lead author on Winter Storm Uri impact studies.
- **Dr. Ripendra Awal**, Professor of Water Resources
Specialist in flood preparedness, disaster risk reduction and community resilience.
- **Dr. Anoop Veettil**, Research Assistant Professor of Water Resources
Focuses on extreme-event modeling, forecasting uncertainty and climate risk assessment for emergency planning.

Their peer-reviewed research includes analysis of how Winter Storm Uri disrupted power systems, public water supply and air quality across Texas, offering insights that remain relevant during the current storm. “This research gives us a systems-based way to understand what’s happening now and how Texas can better prepare for future extreme events,” Fares said.

Interviews can be arranged for morning and evening newscasts. Faculty are available upon request. Contact **Liz Faublas-Wallace**, Communications Specialist III, at lswallace@pvamu.edu.

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PRAIRIE VIEW A&M UNIVERSITY, founded in 1876, is the second oldest public institution of higher education in the state of Texas and the third largest Historically Black College/University (HBCU) in the nation. Designated as an “institution of the first class” in the Texas Constitution, the enrollment exceeds 10,000 students and over 80,000 graduates. PVAMU offers academic programs through its ten colleges and schools, boasting degree options leading to bachelor’s and doctoral-level degrees. A Carnegie-classified high-research (R2) University and a member of The Texas A&M University System, PVAMU is dedicated to fulfilling its land-grant mission of achieving excellence in teaching, research, and service. For more information, visit www.pvamu.edu.

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