



State of New Hampshire Department of Safety

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Homeland Security and Emergency Management

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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PRESS RELEASE

BLIZZARD TO STRIKE COASTAL NEW HAMPSHIRE

CONCORD, NH – The New Hampshire Department of Safety’s Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management and the Department of Transportation remind residents and visitors of New Hampshire to take action as a winter storm will impact parts of the state Saturday, January 29, 2022.

- The National Weather Service (NWS) in Gray, Maine, has issued a Blizzard Warning from 7 a.m. Saturday to 6 a.m. Sunday for the coastal area of Rockingham County. Heavy snowfall is expected with the potential for total accumulations of more than 1 foot and wind gusts in excess of 50 mph. Rockingham County also is under a Coastal Flood Advisory from 7 to 10 a.m.
- Belknap, Carroll, Hillsborough, Merrimack, Strafford counties and the non-coastal areas of Rockingham County are under a Winter Storm Warning from 7 a.m. Saturday to 6 a.m. Sunday. Heavy snowfall is expected with total accumulations of 7 to 13 inches and wind gusts up to 35 mph.
- Cheshire County is under a Winter Storm Warning from 7 a.m. Saturday to 6 a.m. Sunday. Heavy snowfall is expected with total accumulations of 5 to 7 inches and wind gusts up to 35 mph.
- Coos, Grafton and Sullivan counties are under a Winter Storm Advisory from 7 a.m. Saturday to 6 a.m. Sunday. Snow accumulations of 4 to 6 inches and wind gusts up to 30 mph are expected.

According to the National Weather Service, a *Blizzard Warning* means snow and/or blowing snow reducing visibility to one-quarter mile or less for 3 hours and sustained winds of 35 mph or greater or frequent gusts to 35 mph or greater or longer are occurring or expected within the next 12 to 18 hours. A *Winter Storm Warning* indicates that heavy snow of at least 6 inches in 12 hours, or at least 8 inches in 24 hours, is expected. It can also be issued if sleet accumulation will be at least half an inch.

“Now is the time to make preparations for this storm,” said NH Homeland Security and Emergency Management Director Jennifer Harper. She further warned that “heavy snowfall paired with strong winds could cause power outages. If you see downed power lines, please stay away from them and call

Office: 110 Smokey Bear Boulevard, Concord, N.H.
Mailing Address: 33 Hazen Drive, Concord, N.H. 03305
603-271-2231, 1-800-852-3792, Fax 603-223-3609
State of New Hampshire TDD Access: Relay 1-800-735-2964

9-1-1.”

Report power outages to your utility provider:

Eversource1-800-662-7764
Liberty Utilities.....1-855-349-9455
NH Electric Co-Op1-800-343-6432
Unitil.....1-888-301-7700

Customers without power should continue to call their service providers at least once daily until power is restored.

The duration of the storm will make travel difficult. Department of Transportation Commissioner Victoria Sheehan urges motorists to delay travel and stay off the roads during the storm.

“Storm forecasts indicate that there will be intense bands of snow throughout Saturday, which will significantly impact visibility,” Sheehan said. “This coupled with strong winds and blowing snow will create dangerous driving conditions. Please, if travel is not essential, stay home and allow our crews to clear roads. For those of you who absolutely must travel, allow yourself plenty of time, leave ample space between your car and others. Go slow, driving for conditions, and never crowd our plows.”

Harper and Sheehan offer the following safety recommendations:

- Monitor National Weather Service radio or broadcast weather reports to keep track of changing conditions.
- Slow down and move over for emergency vehicles.
- Do not crowd the plows or emergency crews.
- Clear all snow and ice off your car, including your roof, around lights and license plates before traveling.
- Bridges, overpasses and exposed road areas are the most prone to icy conditions.
- If you encounter a flooded roadway, turn around, don’t drown.
- If you encounter a downed power line, stay away and call 9-1-1.
- Use flashlights, rather than candles, for emergency lighting.
- Do not use a gas range or oven as an alternate source of heat.
- Only use a generator that has been wired to the house electrical service by a professional electrician.
- Never run a generator inside a building or in an enclosed space.

Take time now to prepare. Director Harper encourages everyone to plan ahead of disasters. The core steps toward preparedness is:

1. Make an emergency kit,
2. Have a family emergency plan, and
3. Stay informed by signing up for NH Alerts.

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