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State of New Hampshire

DEPARTMENT OF SAFETY

Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management

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NEWS RELEASE

FIRST SIGNIFICANT WINTER STORM OF SEASON TO IMPACT NEW HAMPSHIRE

CONCORD, N.H. – The National Weather Service in Gray, Maine, issued a Winter Storm Watch for New Hampshire. New Hampshire Department of Safety’s Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management (HSEM) and the New Hampshire Department of Transportation (NHDOT) urge residents and visitors to be prepared as parts of the state could see heavy snowfall.

- Belknap, Cheshire, Grafton, Hillsborough, Merrimack, Strafford and Sullivan counties and parts of Carroll and Rockingham counties have a Winter Storm Watch issued from Thursday night into Saturday with total snow accumulations possibly exceeding 6 inches.
- Coos County and part of Carroll County have a Winter Storm Watch for Friday and Saturday with total snow accumulations possibly exceeding 6 inches.

A watch means the event is possible and is an opportunity to get prepared. As the event becomes imminent, a watch will normally be upgraded to either a warning or an advisory. A Winter Storm Warning means take action; confidence in the winter storm’s impact is high and the storm is imminent or ongoing.

“As we expect the first significant snowfall of the season, make sure you are prepared for winter,” said HSEM Director Robert Buxton. “You can take simple preparedness steps to keep you and your family safe. Make sure your winter emergency kit is ready and stay informed by listening to local weather reports.”

This storm is expected to impact the Friday morning and evening commutes. Avoid driving if possible. If you must travel go slow and use caution.

“Motorists are safer at home,” said NHDOT Commissioner William Cass. “Stay off the roads if you can and let us do our job. If travel is necessary, please remove all ice and snow from your vehicle, go slow, drive for conditions and allow extra time to reach your destination. Leave plenty of space between cars and don’t crowd the plow.”

Director Buxton and Commissioner Cass provide these additional winter weather reminders:

- Visit ReadyNH.gov to learn more preparedness tips to help you and your family stay safe.

- Monitor National Weather Service radio or broadcast weather reports to keep track of changing conditions.
- Consider working or schooling from home so that crews can safely clear the roads.
- Slow down and move over for emergency vehicles.
- Never crowd the plow.
- 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 slippery conditions.

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