

State of New Hampshire

DEPARTMENT OF SAFETY Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management www.nh.gov/hsem



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE Tuesday, January 9, 2024 Vanessa Palange Community Outreach Coordinator

NEWS RELEASE

WINTER STORM TO BRING STRONG WINDS, SNOW, RAIN TO NH

CONCORD, N.H. – The National Weather Service (NWS) in Gray, Maine, issued several <u>Watches</u>, <u>Advisories and Warnings</u> for parts of New Hampshire for Tuesday and Wednesday. The New Hampshire Department of Safety's Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management (HSEM) urges residents and visitors to take action to protect themselves and their families.

Strong winds, snow and rain will create the potential for power outages and flooding.

"Our hard-working utility crews have brought in extra resources and are prepared to handle power outages as they occur," said Governor Chris Sununu. "Granite Staters should be ready to deal with a multitude of weather conditions as the storm arrives and take the appropriate actions to stay safe."

Report any power outages to your utility provider every 24 hours until it is restored:

Eversource	1-800-662-7764
Liberty Utilities	1-855-349-9455
NH Electric Co-Op	1-800-343-6432
Unitil	1-888-301-7700

"Residents and visitors should stay informed of changing weather conditions before and during the storm," said HSEM Director Robert Buxton. "If you do lose power, never run a generator indoors. If you come across downed wires, stay away and call 9-1-1. If you come upon flood waters, turn around, don't drown!"

Director Buxton provides these additional winter weather reminders:

- Stay informed by signing up for local alerts.
- 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.
- Find the latest road conditions at <u>newengland511.org</u>.
- Consider working or schooling from home so that crews can safely clear the roads.
- Slow down and move over for emergency vehicles and 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.
- If flooding occurs, get to higher ground immediately.
- Just 6 inches of moving water can knock you down, and 1 foot of water can sweep your vehicle away. Use a stick to check the firmness of the ground in front of you.
- Never move or drive around barriers. It can put you, other people and first responders in danger.
- If floodwaters rise around your car but the water is not moving, abandon the car and move to higher ground. Do not leave the car and enter moving water. Just 6 inches of water can reach the bottom of most passenger cars causing loss of control and possible stalling.
- Plan two ways out of your home in case of emergency.
- Clear the driveway and front walk from ice and snow. This will provide easy access to your home.
- Only use a generator that has been wired to the building electrical service by a professional electrician.
- Do not run a generator in the garage, even if the door is open, because carbon monoxide can still build up to very dangerous levels, very quickly.
- Make sure your house number can be seen from the street. If you need help, emergency responders will be able to find you.
- Stay away from downed wires and call 911.
- Be ready if the heat stops working. Use extra layers of clothes and blankets to stay warm. If you use an emergency heat source, keep anything that can burn at least 3 feet away.
- Turn portable heaters off when you leave the room. Also turn them off when you go to bed.
- Use flashlights, rather than candles, for emergency lighting.
- Check on neighbors and others who may need help.

Learn more about emergency preparedness at <u>ReadyNH.gov</u>.

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