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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**HSEM DIRECTOR URGES RESIDENTS TO USE NH ALERTS TO PREPARE**

CONCORD, N.H. – Homeland Security and Emergency Management (HSEM) Director Perry Plummer urges residents and visitors to use NH Alerts to stay informed as a significant winter storm arrives in New Hampshire today and will continue to impact the State through Saturday afternoon.

Currently, the National Weather Service predicts at least 4 inches of heavy wet snow for most of the State with amounts of up to 12 inches for the central and southern regions. Heavy wet snow on trees and power lines will likely result in broken branches and downed power lines. Winter storm warnings have been posted for the entire State with the exception of northern Coos which is under a winter advisory.

Plummer said HSEM will activate the State Emergency Operations Center at noon to monitor the storm and assist local and state partners.

“Throughout the storm, people using NH Alerts can know how the storm is impacting the area immediately around them.” Plummer said. “By using NH Alerts you can know about safety issues in your area, from accidents and road closures to hazardous weather and active shooters. We can send messages directly to those people who are in the path of danger. I strongly encourage everyone to sign up for this free service and download the app.”

The free NH Alerts emergency notification system allows residents who have signed up via ReadyNH.gov to be notified of emergencies through mobile and landline phones. Residents must go to ReadyNH.gov to sign-up for the free alerts system.

The NH Alerts app provides warnings via an audible alert. The types of alerts received are completely customizable allowing the user to determine the frequency with which warnings are received. The NH Alerts app works with iPhone® and Android™ cellphones and is currently available via links on ReadyNH.gov. The NH Alerts app is free to anyone including visitors from other states.

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