



State of New Hampshire Department of Safety

John J. Barthelmes, Commissioner

Robert L. Quinn, Assistant Commissioner

Richard C. Bailey, Jr., Assistant Commissioner

Homeland Security and Emergency Management

Perry E. Plummer, Director

Jennifer L. Harper, Assistant Director



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Sunday, February 12, 2017

Michael D. Todd, DOS PIO

O: (603) 223-3641; C: (603) 892-8196

HEAVY SNOW AND HIGH WINDS WILL CAUSE TREACHEROUS DRIVING CONDITIONS, POWER OUTAGES ARE POSSIBLE

New Hampshire Homeland Security and Emergency Management is coordinating the State's preparations in response to a significant snow storm that is expected to bring a foot to two feet of snow today through Monday with strong wind gusts causing treacherous driving conditions and power outages.

"A conference call was held this afternoon with the Office of the Governor, and state and local partners to ensure that all preparations have been made regarding the impending storm," Homeland Security and Emergency Management Director Perry Plummer said. "The storm is expected to drop heavy wet snow at a rate of up to 1 to 3 inches per hour. The rapid rate of snow fall coupled with strong wind gusts will make driving conditions extremely dangerous if not impossible. Power outages are also likely, particularly along the coast."

The National Weather Service has issued winter storm warnings for all of New Hampshire that will continue into Monday. Blizzard watches are in effect along the coast.

Plummer said the State Emergency Operations Center will open at 4 p.m. today to coordinate the State's response to the storm and to support local partners as needed.

The State Public Utilities Commission has worked with power companies to have sufficient crews on standby should they be needed, Plummer said. Restorations will be made as quickly as safely possible, he said.

During the conference call, Plummer made the following safety recommendations:

- Visit ReadyNH.gov and follow NH HSEM on *Twitter* and *Facebook* for the latest safety information regarding the storm and to learn more about keeping safe during emergencies.
- Signup for NH Alerts, the State's emergency notification system at ReadyNH.gov, to receive the latest weather warnings and safety information for your area.
- Monitor the weather using a National Weather Service radio or through broadcast weather reports to keep track of changing conditions.
- During and after the storm:



State of New Hampshire Department of Safety

John J. Barthelmes, Commissioner

Robert L. Quinn, Assistant Commissioner

Richard C. Bailey, Jr., Assistant Commissioner

Homeland Security and Emergency Management

Perry E. Plummer, Director

Jennifer L. Harper, Assistant Director



- Avoid all non-emergency travel.
- If travel is necessary, drive slowly, allow extra space between vehicles and around plows and road crews, keep your gas tank at least half-full, tell someone when you are leaving and where you are going, keep a shovel in your car, and have enough food, water and blankets for each person in your car should you be delayed for an extended time.
- Report power outages to your local utility.

During the conference call, State Police officials made the following recommendations:

- Avoid all unnecessary travel.
- Before venturing out, clear snow off of vehicles, from around lights and break lights.
- Slow down and expect reduced speed limits.

During the conference call, State Department of Transportation officials made the following recommendations:

- Unless it's an emergency or critical travel, stay off the roads.
- Don't crowd the plow.
- Leave extra time to arrive.
- Slow down.
- Move over for blue, red and amber lights.

During the conference call, the State Fire Marshal J. William Degan made the following safety recommendations:

- Use emergency generators and alternate heat sources safely:
 - Only use a generator that has been properly connected to house wiring by a professional and with an interlock device to avoid back feeding to the power lines and injuring a line worker or neighbor.
 - Run generators outside and away from windows, doors and vents. Improper placement of generators and improper venting of heat sources are a major cause of carbon monoxide (CO) poisoning. CO is a colorless, tasteless, odorless gas that can kill.
 - The warning signs of CO poisoning are flu-like symptoms such as headache, nausea, vomiting, dizziness, drowsiness, and confusion, but without a fever.
 - Remember to keep outside vents for heaters and stoves clear of snow, as clogged vents may also pose carbon monoxide dangers.
 - Do not use a gas range or oven as an alternate source of heat.
- If you or anyone in the home thinks you are being poisoned by carbon monoxide:
 - Leave the house at once.



State of New Hampshire Department of Safety

John J. Barthelmes, Commissioner

Robert L. Quinn, Assistant Commissioner

Richard C. Bailey, Jr., Assistant Commissioner

Homeland Security and Emergency Management

Perry E. Plummer, Director

Jennifer L. Harper, Assistant Director



- Call the fire department or 911.
- Get medical attention. Call the Poison Center (1-800-222-1222) after you leave the house.
- Be sure your smoke and carbon monoxide detectors are working properly and have backup batteries on hand to ensure that your detectors continue to work properly if an outage occurs.
- Roof loads are of concern, the high winds, drifting snow and heavy wet snow, create an unbalanced roof load and could cause roof failure.
 - Perform snow removal from roofs using the proper equipment and in a safe manner.

Follow NH HSEM on *Twitter* at https://twitter.com/NH_HSEM and *Facebook* at <https://www.facebook.com/NH.HSEM>. Also, sign up for *NH Alerts* to receive emergency information via your mobile and landline phones, including severe weather alerts from the National Weather Service and emergency information from NH HSEM. To learn more about *NH Alerts* and other preparedness tools, visit www.readynh.gov or call [271-2231](tel:271-2231).

###