



State of New Hampshire Department of Safety

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Saturday, February 11, 2017

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HSEM URGES PREPARATION FOR WINTER STORM

CONCORD, N.H. – Homeland Security and Emergency Management (HSEM) urges residents and visitors to take appropriate precautions and stay safe as a significant winter storm is expected to arrive in New Hampshire Sunday morning and will continue to move over the state through Monday afternoon.

The National Weather Service currently expects one to two feet of heavy wet snow to fall across New Hampshire. Strong northeast winds with gusts of up to 50 mph are likely, particularly along the coast. Splash-over, beach erosion and minor coastal flooding are also possible. Significant ice accumulations are not expected at this time. However, the heavy wet snow combined with high winds may cause power outages, particularly along the coast.

Winter storm warnings are in effect for all of New Hampshire starting Sunday and into Monday. Blizzard watches are in effect along the coast starting late tonight and into Monday.

“There is still some uncertainty about the exact impact of this storm,” HSEM Director Perry Plummer said. “Families should have emergency supplies necessary during power outages. Checklists of emergency supplies and procedures can be found at ReadyNH.gov. If you can, avoid traveling during the storm.”

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

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.
- 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:
 - Avoid travel when possible.
 - 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,

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State of New Hampshire TDD Access: Relay 1-800-735-2964

water and blankets for each person in your car should you be delayed for an extended time.

- Report power outages to the local utility.

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.

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