



State of New Hampshire Department of Safety

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Thursday, December 29, 2016

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STATE EOC ACTIVATED AS WINTER STORM CROSSES STATE

Power Outages And Dangerous Travel Conditions Are Expected

CONCORD, N.H. – Homeland Security and Emergency Management (HSEM) activated the State Emergency Operations Center at 1 p.m. to coordinate the state's response to the first significant winter storm of the season. The storm is expected to produce a treacherous evening commute and power outages as it passes over New Hampshire today and into the early morning on Friday.

The National Weather Service expects 10 to 16 inches of heavy wet snow for much of the state with more than 16 inches in the mountains and a wintry mix with little accumulation along the coast. Wind gusts of up to 30 mph are expected across the state with 50 mph gusts expected in some locations. The combination of heavy wet snow and strong winds gusts will likely cause power outages.

"We're asking residents to be good neighbors and to check on friends, family and anyone close by who may have medical or other needs," HSEM Director Perry Plummer said.

Plummer said the State Emergency Operations Center will be open through Thursday night and into Friday to continue to coordinate the state's response to the storm and to provide support to local partners as needed.

The Department of Transportation (DOT) is encouraging New Hampshire residents to limit travel after 6 p.m. If travel is necessary, DOT asks travelers to leave extra time to arrive to their destinations, allow safe driving distances between vehicles and plows, expect reduced speeds, and keep vehicle fuel tanks at least half full.

The State Fire Marshal's Office asks residents to follow manufacturer's instructions when using generators, keep exhaust vents and house exits clear of snow and ice, and to clear snow from around hydrants.

Visit ReadyNH.gov for the latest information regarding the storm.

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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