



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

Tuesday, March 14, 2017

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PRESS RELEASE

STORM CAUSES TREACHEROUS DRIVING CONDITIONS, WIDESPREAD OUTAGES ARE NOT EXPECTED

New Hampshire Homeland Security and Emergency Management is coordinating the State's response to the snow storm that is expected to bring 15 to 20 inches of snow, wind gusts of 30 to 40 mph, and snow fall rates between 2 to 3 inches per hour today through Wednesday morning.

"Conference calls were held this afternoon with the Office of the Governor and federal, state and local partners to ensure everyone has the latest information and the resources they need to respond to the storm," Homeland Security and Emergency Management Director Perry Plummer said. "Our biggest concern right now is the treacherous driving conditions created by the rapid snow fall and strong winds. Avoid travel when you can."

Plummer said the State Emergency Operations Center will open at 4 p.m. today and through the night to support local partners as needed during what is expected to be the most severe portion of the storm.

The National Weather Service has issued blizzard warnings for eastern Hillsborough, Rockingham, and Strafford counties with winter storm warnings for the remainder of the State.

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.
- Avoid unnecessary travel.



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- 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.
- Be mindful of people clearing snow and children around snow banks and other areas where snow is blocking your line of sight.
- Although the Public Utilities Commission is not expecting widespread outages at this time, outages are possible.
 - If you encounter downed power lines:
 - Assume all downed lines are energized.
 - Do not drive over downed power lines.
 - Stay in your car until safety personnel arrive.
 - Stay at least 35 feet away from downed lines.
 - Report power outages to your local utility.
 - Eversource: 800-662-7764
 - Liberty Utilities: 855-349-9455
 - NH Electric Co-op: 800-343-6432
 - Until: 866-900-4115

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

- Avoid all unnecessary travel.
- If you must travel, before you go, 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:

- Avoid travel when possible.
- Don't crowd the plow.
- Leave extra time to arrive.
- Slow down.
- Move over for blue, red and amber lights.

In a press release, 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.



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- Run generators outside of any building, at least ten feet away from your home, with the exhaust facing away from the house. 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.
 - 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.

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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