



North Carolina Severe Weather January 12, 2024

Office of the Governor

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Press Release on 01/12/24:

“Governor Cooper and Emergency Management Officials Urge Caution During Severe Weather Event

Governor Roy Cooper and Emergency Management Officials are urging North Carolinians to be safe and cautious as severe weather enters the state.

RALEIGH

Governor Roy Cooper and Emergency Management Officials are urging North Carolinians to be safe and cautious as severe weather enters the state. The system is anticipated to bring strong storms, gusty winds, additional rainfall, and areas of minor coastal flooding. Damaging winds and saturated soils might also lead to blown down trees and power lines, causing possible power outages.

“North Carolinians should stay alert and informed as storms continue to impact our state,” said Governor Cooper. “It is critical for people to pay attention to local officials and forecasts and have supplies ready in case of an emergency.”

“Once again this week North Carolina is facing another round severe weather threats. Following the statewide impacts from Tuesday’s weather, the State Emergency Response Team has been placed at an enhanced watch to ensure we are ready to quickly respond to any needs from our counties as they continue the recovery process from Tuesday,” said Emergency Management Director Will Ray. “With saturated soil from the recent rainfall and more wind on the way, we could see power outages again. The State Emergency Response Team remains in contact with our energy partners to assist in expedient restoration of power.”

The Executive Order issued ahead of severe weather on January 9 declaring a State of Emergency has been extended in anticipation of this severe weather. The declaration waives truck weight, size and hours of service restrictions so that vehicles carrying essential supplies such as food, medicine or fuel or transporting livestock and crops can get their jobs done quickly.

This weather system will bring the potential for severe storms, gusty winds, periods of heavy rainfall, and localized flash flooding to much of North Carolina today. The Storm Prediction Center has maintained a Slight Risk (level 2 of 5) from the Charlotte Metro into the Triangle through much of eastern part of the state today. The potential for strong to severe storms will increase this afternoon across southern portions of the foothills, moving quickly eastward into the evening hours. Severe storms that develop today will be capable of producing damaging wind gusts and a few isolated tornadoes.

A Wind Advisory is also now in effect for much of the state through Saturday morning, and through midday Saturday across portions of the mountains. The strongest wind gusts are expected across the mountains (50-55mph) and along the coast (50 mph), with wind gusts 35-45 mph possible through early Saturday morning elsewhere. Gusty winds could also lead to minor coastal flooding along northern portions of the Pamlico and Albemarle Sounds.

The heaviest rainfall is forecast across the mountains where 0.5-1 inches of rain is likely. Up to 1.5 inches of rainfall is possible across the Blue Ridge Escarpment into the northwest through this evening and a Flood Watch remains in effect for the northwest mountains through this afternoon. With saturated soils, periods of heavy rainfall ahead and along the frontal boundary will increase the threat for flash floods. Minor River Flooding will be possible Friday afternoon that may continue into the weekend, but additional areas of Moderate River flooding are not anticipated with this event.

Lingering moisture may changeover to snow across mountain areas near the Tennessee North Carolina border tonight, but significant accumulations are not expected with snow showers coming to an end by midday Saturday.

Residents are advised to stay aware and keep a watch on the forecast. State officials advise these tips to make sure your family is personally prepared:

- *Have multiple ways to receive emergency info, including watches and warnings. Make sure emergency alerts are enabled on your cell phone and download a weather app.*
- *Have an emergency plan. Know where you would go if you need to evacuate. Make a plan to stay with family, friends or at a hotel. Public shelters should be a last resort.*
- *Gather some emergency supplies or refresh your emergency kit. Visit ReadyNC.gov for info on how to build an emergency kit.*
- *Never drive through flooded roadways or around barricades.*
- *Make sure you know where to seek shelter if a tornado warning is issued for your area.*
- *Ensure that you have multiple ways to receive warnings.*
- *Check to see if your community offers emergency alert services for its residents.*
- *Avoid unnecessary travel.*

The Council of State unanimously concurred with the Emergency Declaration.
View that record [here](#).

Read the [State of Emergency](#)."

Office of Emergency Management and Homeland Security Agency

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[NC DPS: Emergency Management](#)

[North Carolina Department of Public Safety | Raleigh NC | Facebook](#)

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American Red Cross

American Red Cross North Carolina Region
2425 Park Road
Charlotte, NC 28203
(704) 376-1661

[North Carolina Region | American Red Cross](#)

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Recent social media post on 01/12/24:

"The Red Cross continues to provide support to individuals and families affected by Tuesday's severe storms. Disaster volunteers have been working around the clock in highly impacted communities --including here on Cindi Lane in Catawba County-- offering immediate aid, support, and resources in the aftermath.

In addition to supporting Catawba Co. officials with an emergency shelter at Mt. Calvary Lutheran Church, we're helping to provide a network of disaster, healthcare, and mental health services with the help of pivotal community partnerships.

In anticipation of potentially more severe weather this weekend, the Red Cross will continue to support local government officials, emergency responders, and community advocates in offering support before, during, and after the storm. For more information, call 1-800-RED-CROSS or visit [redcross.org](https://www.redcross.org)."

To view a list of open shelters, please visit: [Disaster Shelters | Find Shelters | American Red Cross](#)

Department of Transportation

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[N.C. Department of Transportation \(ncdot.gov\)](http://ncdot.gov)
[North Carolina Department of Transportation | Raleigh NC | Facebook](#)
[NCDOT \(@NCDOT\) / X \(twitter.com\)](#)

Please see the following link for updated traffic conditions: [DriveNC.gov | North Carolina Traffic, Road Closures & Travel Information](#)

United Way/211 Information and Referrals Lines

These information and referral lines may know of additional resources currently providing assistance, such as food pantries, clothing closets, emergency shelters, and agencies offering financial assistance. Please dial 2-1-1 and provide your zip code and demographic information in order to receive referrals. Information can also be obtained at [Call 211 for Essential Community Services | United Way 211](#).

NC 2-1-1

[NC 211](#)

Call 211 or (888) 892-1162

Text your zip code to 898-211

Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)

(800) 621-3362

[FEMA.gov](#)

Please visit the website and click on “*Disaster Declarations*”. If a disaster is declared, please call to apply for assistance by phone, or visit: [Individual Assistance | FEMA.gov](#) to apply online.

DisasterAssistance.gov

[Home | disasterassistance.gov](#)

Offers information about local resources for disasters, including: FEMA Disaster Recovery Centers (DRCs), Red Cross, food, shelter, state emergency management agencies, and hospital locators.

To determine if individual disaster assistance is available through FEMA, please visit the website and enter the address.

To locate your local state emergency management agency for disaster information and updates, please visit: [Search Your Location | FEMA.gov](#)

American Red Cross National

(800) 733-2767

[American Red Cross | Help Those Affected by Disasters](#)

National Weather Service

Weather alerts by state are available at: [Active Alerts \(weather.gov\)](#).

The Weather Channel

Local forecasts and severe weather. Please call or visit the website to locate your local chapter and open shelters.

[National and Local Weather Radar, Daily Forecast, Hurricane and information from The Weather Channel and weather.com.](#)

Safe Travel USA

[SafeTravelUSA](#)

National Traffic And Road Closure Information

[National Traffic and Road Closure Information | Federal Highway Administration \(dot.gov\)](#)

Free Help Line

Optum, a leading health and behavioral health services company, is offering a free emotional-support help line.

The toll-free number, 866-447-3573, will be open Monday-Friday, 8am-8pm CST. The service is free of charge and open to anyone. Specially trained Optum mental health specialists help people manage their stress and anxiety so they can continue to address their everyday needs. Callers may also receive referrals to community resources to help them with specific concerns, including financial and legal matters.

Along with the toll-free help line, emotional-support resources and information are available online at <https://www.liveandworkwell.com>.