

North Carolina Winter Storm December 10, 2018

Office of the Governor Roy Cooper

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<https://governor.nc.gov>

<http://www.facebook.com/ncgovernor>

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December 10, 2018 – PRESS RELEASE UPDATE

With some portions of North Carolina receiving up to 20 inches of snow and ice, Governor Roy Cooper is encouraging the public to remain cautious as cold temperatures will result in refreezing. “North Carolina has gotten through the worst of the storm, but we need to stay vigilant,” Governor Cooper stated. “Unfortunately, the snow has turned into a nightmare and a tragedy for some, claiming three lives. We mourn them and offer our deepest sympathies to their loved ones.” A man died Sunday in Matthews when a tree fell on his car. In Yadkin County, a person died from a heart related condition while on the way to a shelter. In Haywood County, a terminally ill woman living at home on hospice care died when her oxygen concentrator stopped working after a power outage.

This storm dropped staggering amounts of snow, ice and rain across our state. A year’s worth of snowfall or more fell in many places in little more than a day. With a mix of snow, ice and rain still coming down in some areas, conditions remain treacherous. Colder temperatures overnight could turn wet or slushy streets into ice rinks tomorrow morning.

The State of Emergency for North Carolina remains in effect. The State Emergency Operations Center is open with Emergency Management, the Department of Transportation, the Highway Patrol, the National Guard and utilities working together to keep North Carolina safe through the storm.

The National Guard has 172 guard members and 69 vehicles deployed to respond to the storm, from pulling out stuck vehicles to helping EMS crews transport people to hospitals. Since the storm began through noon today, the State Highway Patrol has responded to 1,483 crashes and 3,606 calls for service. 25 counties have declared states of emergencies, and 15 shelters have opened, mainly in western North Carolina.

“Please let Mother Nature, first responders and our DOT road crews finish clearing the roads before you venture out,” Governor Cooper urged. “First responders stand ready to assist you as needed, but don’t risk your safety or theirs by making them come to your rescue.”

Cooper continues to urge those in areas still covered in snow to stay off roads to allow road crews to do their jobs. More than 2,300 NCDOT employees are working today as efforts to clear roads in the western and central parts of the state continue. Where snow has continued or resumed, crews are ensuring interstates and other major roads are clear. In other locations, crews are focusing on state routes and secondary roads. The department is using nearly 1,600 trucks and graders with another 945 contractor trucks helping in the effort. More than 31,000 tons of salt and nearly 4,000 tons of salt/sand mix have already been placed on roads, with more expected through the day and into the evening in anticipation of icy conditions developing in many areas overnight Monday.

NCDOT is also ready to deploy crews to cut and remove downed trees from roads. Additional transportation crews on the coast are readying to deploy to help their colleagues in central North Carolina.

Power crews have made some progress with outages as of 12:30 p.m. down to about 120,000 from a peak of about 252,000 on Sunday. The highest concentration of outages is in western North Carolina and the Triad. Utility companies have brought in more than 1,500 crews from other states to help and are working quickly to restore power.

An additional messy, light wintry mix of snow, sleet, freezing rain, and rain will contribute to potentially hazardous and slick road conditions in many areas today. Generally, less than 1 inch of snow is possible for central part of the state, with 1 to 2 inches possible in portions of the mountains and a dusting with little to no accumulation possible along the Coastal Plain. Around the Piedmont, the greatest accumulations of snow/sleet will be about one inch in the northern central area through this afternoon.

The Winter Storm Warning remains in effect until 2 p.m. for remaining mountain counties to account for any additional wintry precipitation, which is anticipated to be less than tenth of an inch accumulation today. Temperatures will likely drop below freezing within the Piedmont and areas west through this morning, but will rise slightly through the afternoon before dropping back down below freezing after sunset. Overnight temperatures will drop into the teens and 20s but then again rise above freezing during the day Tuesday. This will enable any frozen precipitation on roadways to melt some, but then re-freeze overnight. The Winter Weather Advisory has been extended through Tuesday morning to account for any melting and re-freezing of the roadways.

A Wind Advisory remains in effect through 10 a.m. this morning for portions of the Outer Banks as winds could gust up to 45 mph. Additionally Coastal Flood Warnings and Advisories remain in effect for portions of the Coast and Outer Banks. Portions of NC-12 are likely to be inundated, especially during high tide. Beach erosion is expected, especially north of Cape Lookout.

To stay safe during the storm, Governor Cooper and North Carolina Emergency Management officials urge you to:

- Stay at home and off the roads.
- Dress warmly. Wear multiple layers of thin clothing instead of a single layer of thick clothing.
- Properly vent kerosene heaters and keep any electric generators outside and away from open windows or doors to prevent carbon monoxide poisoning. Never burn charcoal or operate grills indoors.
- Monitor changing forecasts and weather conditions closely.
- Keep an emergency kit in your vehicle. Include scraper, jumper cables, tow chain, sand/salt, blankets, flashlight, first aid kit and road map.

Governor Cooper also encourages North Carolinians to check on neighbors, especially the elderly and disabled, and include pets in their emergency plans. To keep animals safe during winter weather, emergency management officials recommend you:

- Keep an emergency supplies kit for your pet and include medical records, first aid kit, enough canned/dry food and water for 3 - 7 days and pet travel bag or carrier.
- Bring pets inside when temperatures drop below freezing.
- Ensure your pet has a well-fitting collar with identification.
- Move livestock and other animals to a sheltered location with food and water.

For more information on how to prepare for winter storms, visit the Winter Weather Information page at ncdps.gov or use the ReadyNC mobile app. For the latest road conditions, visit DriveNC.gov.

December 07, 2018 – PRESS RELEASE

Governor Cooper today declared a State of Emergency for all 100 counties as North Carolina prepares for a major winter storm expected to hit the state starting Saturday.

Parts of North Carolina are forecast to get up to 18 inches of snow and ice Saturday through Monday along with gusty winds. Nearly all of the state is expected to feel some sort of impact from the storm. “North Carolina is gearing up for a major winter storm and we’re taking all steps necessary to have the resources we need in place to respond,” Governor Cooper said. “Snow may be beautiful but it can also be treacherous and I urge North Carolinians to take this storm seriously and get ready for it now.”

The Governor declared a State of Emergency to facilitate movement of any resources needed to respond to the storm and ordered that truck weight, size and hours of service restrictions be waived. This allows vehicles carrying essential supplies and equipment and utility trucks working to restore power to get where they are needed quickly.

Declaring a State of Emergency also activates state law against price gouging, or charging too much for goods and services during an emergency. North Carolinians can report potential price gouging to the Attorney General by calling 1-877-5-NO-SCAM or online at ncdoj.gov.

Also today Governor Cooper activated the North Carolina National Guard to assist with storm response as needed. The National Guard has 143 guard members, 43 Humvees and 14 all-terrain trucks ready to respond.

The National Weather Service has issued a Winter Storm Warning for portions of the North Carolina mountains from 7 p.m. Saturday to noon Monday. A Winter Storm Warning means significant amounts of snow, sleet, and ice will make travel very hazardous or impossible. A Winter Storm Watch is in effect for much of western and central North Carolina starting Saturday evening or early Sunday morning through Monday night. A Winter Storm Watch means there is the potential for significant snow, sleet, and freezing rain that will likely impact travel.

Roads are expected to become hazardous to travel in many areas once the storm hits. People who do not need to travel are urged to stay off the roads once conditions become dangerous.

Wet snow and ice along with winds could also lead to power outages from the storm, and utility crews are mobilized to restore power as quickly as possible.

Crews with the N.C. Department of Transportation are pretreating roadways and readying equipment to clear roadways of snow and ice. To respond to the storm, NCDOT has at the ready about 3,000 staff, 2,400 trucks with snow plows, and more than 135,000 tons of salt.

North Carolina Emergency Management officials are tracking the storm closely and working with local Emergency Managers to help as needed. The State Highway Patrol is coordinating with local law enforcement and other emergency responders on plans to check and mark abandoned vehicles to ensure that no one gets left stranded in the cold.

North Carolina Department of Emergency Management

1636 Gold Star Drive

Raleigh, NC 27607

(919) 825-2500

<https://www.ncdps.gov/ncem>

<https://readync.org>

<https://twitter.com/NCEmergency>

<https://www.facebook.com/NCEmergency>

For a complete list of contact and alert information for offices of emergency management in specific North Carolina Counties, please visit:

<https://www.ncdps.gov/emergency-management/em-community/directories/counties>

American Red Cross of Eastern North Carolina

Cape Fear Chapter

1102 South 16th Street

Wilmington, NC 28401

(910) 762-2683

<https://www.redcross.org/local/north-carolina/eastern-north-carolina/about-us/locations/cape-fear-chapter.html>

Serves Brunswick, Carteret, Columbus, Craven, Duplin, Greene, Jones, Lenoir, New Hanover, Onslow, Pamlico, Pender, and Wayne Counties.

Central North Carolina Chapter

4737 University Drive

Building 3

Durham, NC 27707

(919) 489-4651

<https://www.redcross.org/local/north-carolina/eastern-north-carolina/about-us/locations/central-north-carolina-chapter.html>

Serves Durham, Granville, Orange, Person and Vance Counties.

Northeastern North Carolina Chapter

700-A Cromwell Drive

Greenville, NC 27858

(252) 355-3800

<https://www.redcross.org/local/north-carolina/eastern-north-carolina/about-us/locations/northeastern-north-carolina-chapter.html>

Serves Beaufort, Bertie, Camden, Chowan, Currituck, Dare, Edgecombe, Gates, Halifax, Hertford, Hyde, Martin, Nash, Northampton, Pasquotank, Perquimans, Pitt, Tyrrell, Washington, and Wilson Counties.

Sandhills Chapter

807 Carol Street

Fayetteville, NC 28303

(910) 867-8151

<https://www.redcross.org/local/north-carolina/eastern-north-carolina/about-us/locations/sandhills-chapter.html>

Serves Bladen, Cumberland, Harnett, Hoke, Moore, Richmond, Robeson, Sampson, and Scotland Counties.

Triangle Area Chapter

100 North Peartree Lane

Raleigh, NC 27610

(919) 231-1602

<https://www.redcross.org/local/north-carolina/eastern-north-carolina/about-us/locations/triangle-area-chapter.html>

Serves Chatham, Franklin, Johnston, Lee, Wake and Warren Counties.

American Red Cross Greater Carolinas Region**Charlotte Metro Chapter**

2425 Park Road

Charlotte, NC 28203

(704) 347-8238

<https://www.redcross.org/local/north-carolina/greater-carolinas/about-us/locations/charlotte-metro-north-carolina.html>

Serves Mecklenburg and Iredell Counties.

Southern Piedmont Chapter

167 Union Street South

Concord, NC 28025

(704) 283-7402

<https://www.redcross.org/local/north-carolina/greater-carolinas/about-us/locations/southern-piedmont.html>

Serves Anson, Cabarrus, Montgomery, Rowan, Stanly, and Union Counties.

Piedmont Triad Chapter

1501 Yanceyville Street

Greensboro, NC 27415

(336) 333-2111

<https://www.redcross.org/local/north-carolina/greater-carolinas/about-us/locations/piedmont-triad.html>

Serves Alamance, Caswell, Davidson, Davie, Forsyth, Guilford, Randolph, Rockingham, Stokes, Surry and Yadkin Counties.

Blue Ridge Piedmont Chapter

1375 Lenoir Rhyne Boulevard

Hickory, NC 28602

(828) 322-4151

<https://www.redcross.org/local/north-carolina/greater-carolinas/about-us/locations/blue-ridge-piedmont.html>

Serves Alleghany, Alexander, Ashe, Avery, Burke, Caldwell, Catawba, Cleveland, Gaston, Lincoln, Watauga and Wilkes Counties.

Western North Carolina Chapter

100 Edgewood Road

Asheville, NC 28804

(828) 258-3888

<https://www.redcross.org/local/north-carolina/greater-carolinas/about-us/locations/western-north-carolina.html>

Serves Buncombe, Cherokee, Clay, Graham, Haywood, Henderson, Jackson, Macon, Madison, McDowell, Mitchell, Polk, Rutherford, Swain, Transylvania and Yancey Counties.

Open Shelters:

<https://www.redcross.org/get-help/disaster-relief-and-recovery-services/find-an-open-shelter.html>

Rockingham County:

Rockingham Middle School
182 High School Road
Reidsville, NC 27320

Henderson County:

East Henderson High School
110 Old Upward Road
East Flat Rock, NC 28726

Buncombe County:

Trinity Baptist Church
216 Shelbourne Road
Asheville, NC 28806

Polk County:

Saluda Volunteer Fire Department
199 Walnut Street
Saluda, NC 28773

Polk County Middle School
321 Wolverine Trail
Mill Spring, NC 28756

Transylvania County:

Transylvania County Activity Center
1078 Ecusta Road
Brevard, NC 28712

Haywood County:

Haywood County Health and Human Services
157 Paragon Parkway
Clyde, NC 28721

Stokes County:

London Elementary
609 School Street
Walnut Cove, NC 27052

Wilkes County:

Wilkes Senior Center
228 Fairplains School Road
Fairplains, NC 28659

McDowell County:

203 South Main Street
Old Fort, NC 28762

Burke County:

Collett Recreation Center
100 Collett Street
Morgantown, NC 28655

North Carolina Department of Transportation

1 South Wilmington Street
Raleigh, NC 27601
(877) 368-4968

<https://www.nc.gov/agencies/transportation>

<https://www.facebook.com/NCDOT>

<https://twitter.com/ncdot>

Travel Information, Major Impacted Highways, and Current Road Conditions:

<https://tims.ncdot.gov/tims>

The right lane of I-40 West is closed 3 miles prior to Exit 7 (Cold Springs Creek Road),

Triad Region and North Western Mountains
Winter weather is still impacting roads North and West of I-85.

North Carolina United Way/211 Information and Referrals Lines

<http://www.unitedwaync.org/nc211>

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 call and provide your zip code and demographic information in order to receive referrals.

1130 Kildaire Farm Road

Suite 100

Cary, NC 27511

(888) 892-1162 or Dial 2-1-1

<https://www.nc211.org/find-help>

For a complete list and contact information for specific counties in North Carolina, please visit: <https://www.nc211.org/united-way-community-partners>

NATIONAL RESOURCES:

FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY (FEMA)

500 C Street SW

Washington, DC 20472

(800) 621-3362

<http://www.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 <http://www.fema.gov/apply-assistance> to apply online.

DISASTERASSISTANCE.GOV

<https://www.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 <http://www.fema.gov/emergency-management-agencies>

AMERICAN RED CROSS NATIONAL

National Headquarters

2025 East Street, NW

Washington, DC 20006

(202) 303-4498 or (800) 733-2767

<http://www.redcross.org>

Please call or visit the website to locate your local chapter and open shelters.

AMERICAN RED CROSS SAFE AND WELL LIST

<https://safeandwell.communityos.org/cms/index.php>

Residents affected can notify their friends and family that they are safe by visiting the website and selecting "*List Myself as Safe and Well.*" Individuals can also search for loved ones by selecting "*Search Registrants.*"

NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE

Weather alerts by state are available at <http://www.weather.gov/alerts>.

THE WEATHER CHANNEL

Local forecasts and severe weather alerts, available at <http://www.weather.com>.

NATIONAL TRAFFIC AND ROAD CLOSURE INFORMATION

<http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/trafficinfo>

SAFE TRAVEL USA

<http://www.safetravelusa.com>

Free Help Line:

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

The toll-free number, 866-342-6892, will be open 24 hours a day, seven days a week, for as long as necessary. 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>