

Talbot County Department of Emergency Services (DES)

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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“Winter Storm Warning for Talbot County”

Talbot County along with the State of Maryland remains under a State of Emergency as we as we continue clean up operations on area roadways.

Winter Storm Warning...

Talbot County and the upper Eastern Shore have been placed under a Winter Storm Warning. Snow is expected to begin tomorrow evening and continue into Wednesday with a possible accumulation of 10-18 inches of snow.

The forecast for an additional 10-18 inches of snow on top of the 25-30 inches already on the ground presents concern for power outages, the effect of heavy snow on large flat rooftops, and the accessibility to our road system given the challenge snow removal equipment will face with the mix of new snow versus the hardened “old snow,” which can be damaging to equipment thus hindering the progress of clearing.

Our first responders, many of which who are volunteer fire and rescue personnel continue to man their stations and respond to assist those in need. Chief Mark Secrist, Chairman of the County Fire Chiefs Committee and Chief of the Cordova Fire Department would like our residents to know that “Our members who volunteer their time are dedicated and remain committed to be there for our community.”

Clay Stamp DES Director “Like with this past storm we are asking people to take this opportunity if possible to prepare for tomorrow evenings storm by stocking up on provisions to remain indoors for 24-48 hours,” and although we are all tired after preparing for and dealing with this recent snowfall, we need to grab our second wind and prepare as we just did several days ago.

DES would like to thank the people of Talbot County and will continue to monitor and issue updates as appropriate for this unfolding weather event.

Talbot DES recommends:

1. If you utilize alternative heating equipment such as portable gas or oil heaters make sure they are properly vented to prevent Carbon Monoxide poisoning.
2. If you have a generator, make sure it is in a well-ventilated area to reduce the risk of breathing harmful fumes. Never use a generator inside the house or even in an attached garage.
3. Never connect the generator's electrical output directly to any home or building electrical circuits, or a wall outlet.
4. If the generator is connected to a breaker panel or fuse box, turn off or disconnect the main breaker to the house while you are using the generator.
5. Continue to check with and help neighbors if you are able.
6. That you ensure your smoke detectors and carbon monoxide monitors are in working order
7. That in the event of a power outage you use battery operated lighting rather than open flame devices
8. If you must venture out keep a cell phone with you at all times and let someone else know where you are going
9. If you become stranded in your vehicle you should not only have warm clothing and a blanket but you ensure your exhaust pipe is clear allowing exhaust fumes to blow away from the vehicle, and place a colorful piece of cloth on the highest part of your vehicle to attract attention.
10. Finally please yield the right of way to snowplows and other vehicles working to clear roadways.
11. After the Storm:
 - Be extra cautious if you go outside to inspect for damage after a storm.
 - Downed or hanging electrical wires can be hidden by snowdrifts, trees or debris, and could be live.
 - Never attempt to touch or moved downed lines.
 - Keep children and pets away from them.
 - Do not touch anything power lines are touching, such as tree branches or fences. Always assume a downed line is a live line.
 - Call your utility company to report any outage-related problem

As always if you encounter an emergency situation you should activate emergency assistance by calling 9-1-1 at which time we will dispatch appropriate resources to address your emergency.