



Sussex County readies for first major winter storm of 2024-2025 season

*Five to 10 inches of snow, with possible icing, expected late Sunday night
and lasting through late Monday night*

**FOR IMMEDIATE
RELEASE**

**1300 Hours, Sunday
Jan. 5, 2025**

The first significant winter storm of the season could drop as much as a foot of snow and glaze Sussex County with a coating of ice to start the first full week of January, undoubtedly snarling traffic and potentially knocking out power across the region.

The National Weather Service has issued a winter storm warning for all of Sussex County, from 10 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 5, through 4 a.m. Tuesday, Jan. 7. Forecasters predict a general range of 5 to 10 inches of snow, with possible higher amounts where narrow bands set up, to fall across the county beginning late Sunday and lasting through Monday. Forecasters predict the snow to begin around midnight Sunday, then be at its heaviest – with rates of as much as 1 inch per hour – just before daybreak Monday. A possible switch to a wintry mix of sleet, freezing rain, and rain is possible during the midday and early afternoon hours Monday, before switching back to all snow in a secondary burst of precipitation Monday night.

Meantime, gusty winds are expected to follow as the storm ends with a sharp cutoff Monday night, with 15 mph to 25 mph winds, and slightly higher speeds along the coast, expected to cause blowing and drifting snow that could make roads impassable and reduce visibilities. Bitter cold air, with temperatures plunging into the teens after the storm, are expected Monday night and could keep temperatures at or below freezing for most of the week. That, in turn, will limit melting.

Property owners should prepare now by removing or securing loose objects, and residents should stock up on provisions in the event travel is not possible and power is interrupted in the coming days.

“It looks like we’re going to have a pretty intense 24-hour period of winter weather,” Sussex County Emergency Manager/Deputy Director of Public Safety Timothy R. Cooper said. “So, the public should use this time now to make sure they are

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prepared, follow the latest forecast information, and heed any advisories that come about, before, during, and after the storm.”

Emergency planners urge the public to prepare now for the strong possibility of difficult travel, power outages, downed trees as a result of heavy and blowing snow, as well as possibly icing and mixed precipitation.

Travel on Monday could be very difficult at times. Those traveling for essential or emergency purposes, however, should be prepared with basic supplies on hand, including an ice scraper, blankets, sand or cat litter, de-icer, flashlight and batteries, mobile telephone, high-calorie non-perishable food and water, and a full tank of gas.

Meantime, residents and property owners should prepare themselves with basic household supplies, including extra food and water, first-aid supplies, flashlights and batteries, a battery-powered weather radio, extra prescription medicines, baby items, an emergency heat source and sufficient heating fuel.

Sussex County Emergency Management continues to monitor this situation and is working closely with other local and state governmental agencies. Additional staff are being called in to the County’s Emergency Operations Center and paramedic stations to be on standby and respond to issues that may arise during and after the event. The County EOC will be on limited activation beginning at 5 a.m. Monday.

For a list of road closures, visit the Delaware Department of Transportation website at www.deldot.gov. To view a map of power outages in Sussex County, visit Delmarva Power’s website at www.delmarva.com and the Delaware Electric Cooperative’s website at www.delaware.coop.

Stay tuned to local media, as well as the Sussex County website at www.sussexcountycle.gov. The public also should monitor the National Weather Service, at www.weather.gov/phi for the latest forecasts. Meantime, Sussex County offers a variety of social media outlets to relay the latest storm information. Please follow along on Facebook at www.facebook.com/SussexCountyDE and www.facebook.com/SussexCountyEmergencyManagement, and on Twitter at www.twitter.com/sussexde_govt and www.x.com/SussexCtyDE_EM. Updates will be issued as needed.

Sussex County reminds the public to only call 9-1-1 in an emergency. Members of the public who have questions regarding this information should contact Sussex County Emergency Management at (302) 856-7360.

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Media calls should be directed to Deputy Director of Public Safety/Emergency Management Timothy R. Cooper at (302) 855-1000 or Sussex County Communications Director Chip Guy at (302) 858-0505.