



NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

County advises precautions as winter weather moves in

GEORGETOWN COUNTY (11:40 a.m.) — Georgetown County is once again bracing itself for a potentially dangerous winter storm, and county officials are asking residents to take precautions, including driving with extra care as ice is likely on bridges and roadways tonight and tomorrow.

The National Weather Service has issued a winter weather advisory for Georgetown County from 1 a.m. to noon Wednesday. Western portions of the county may see as much as one-fourth to one-half an inch of freezing rain and ice accumulation tonight and Wednesday morning, according to forecasts. Along the coastal portion of the county, only rain is predicted. However, freezing of water on bridges and other roadways is anticipated late tonight and in the morning, creating dangerous driving conditions.

Georgetown County Emergency Management is closely monitoring this weather event, but the county's Emergency Operations Center has not been activated.

Closings, cancellations and Delays

All Georgetown County Recreation Department games and activities are canceled for Tuesday evening. There are no other county government closings, cancellations or delays at this time. Any closing, cancellation or delay decisions will be posted at www.gtcounty.org as decisions are made.

Road safety

No bridges in Georgetown County will close, but motorists are advised to use extreme caution when crossing during icy conditions. Decrease speed and leave plenty of room to stop the vehicle on icy roads. Elevated road surfaces, including bridges and overpasses will be the first roadways to be impacted by winter conditions. Dangerous road conditions are expected countywide beginning late Tuesday night. Residents should avoid travel if at all possible during these conditions.

— More —

Other winter weather precautions

- Temperatures are expected to drop to freezing. Stay indoors if possible. If you must go outside, dress in layers of loose fitting, lightweight clothing. Wear a hat that covers your ears. Wear mittens and cover your mouth with a scarf to protect your lungs. Wear waterproof, insulated boots to keep your feet warm and dry and to maintain your footing in ice and snow.
- Check on relatives and neighbors, particularly those that are vulnerable, such as the elderly, families with small children or no transportation, or those who are medical-care dependent or non-English speaking. Make sure they have a safe, warm place to stay while conditions remain cold.
- All pets should also be brought inside or provided with warm shelter. Move other animals or livestock to sheltered areas with non-frozen drinking water.
- Keep dry. Change wet clothing frequently to prevent a loss of body heat. Wet clothing loses all of its insulating value and transmits heat rapidly.
- Watch for signs of frostbite such as the loss of feeling and white or pale appearance in extremities such as finger, toes, ear lobes and the tip of your nose.
- Drive only if it is absolutely necessary. If you must drive, travel in the day, don't travel alone and keep others informed of your schedule. Decrease your speed and leave plenty of room to stop the vehicle on icy roads.
- If trapped in your car during a winter weather event, pull off of the highway and turn on your hazard lights. Remain in your vehicle where rescuers are most likely to find you. Run the engine and heater about 10 minutes each hour to keep warm. When the engine is running, open a downwind window slightly for ventilation and periodically clear snow from the exhaust pipe. This will protect you from possible carbon monoxide poisoning.
- Take steps to keep pipes from freezing. These include disconnecting hoses and covering all exterior water faucets, maintaining a slight drip of interior water faucets and leaving cabinet doors open under kitchen and bathroom sinks.
- Know where the water cut-off valve is located in your home in case a pipe bursts. Make sure that every responsible person in the home is aware of its location.

For more information, visit www.gtcounty.org or www.scemd.org. Residents may also call Georgetown County Emergency Management at (843) 545-3273.

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