

IMMEDIATE RELEASE
DATE: January 21, 2016



CONTACT:
Vincent Basara,
City of Camden
856-757-7200

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
CITY OF CAMDEN
NEW JERSEY

**** ADVISORY ****

MAYOR REDD ASKS RESIDENTS TO PREPARE FOR IMPENDING WEATHER EVENT

Winter Storm Watch in Effect and Expected to Impact Region

CAMDEN, NJ – Mayor Dana L. Redd would like to urge Camden residents to be prepared for severe weather conditions that are expected in the coming days. The National Weather Service has issued a winter storm watch for parts of Delaware, Maryland, Pennsylvania and New Jersey. The storm watch is in effect from Friday evening through Sunday morning.

The currently forecast calls for 12 to 18 inches of heavy snow with temperatures in the 20's and wind gusts up to 35 MPH. In the case of significant snow accumulations, snow may cling to wires or trees which could cause power outages, hamper transportation, and obstruct traffic.

"We ask that our residents be prepared in case of significant snowfall, which could result in extremely low temperatures and icy condition not to mention possible power outages, extended commutes, and impassible roads," said Mayor Dana Redd. "Camden is prepared and if necessary, the City will activate our Office of Emergency Management. We urge our residents to stay safe and avoid unnecessary travel in case of severe weather."

"The City's Department of Public Works are prepping the local roads, community centers and public building and ready to deploy approximately 30 vehicles along with a full complement of personnel to mitigate potential hazardous conditions. We ask that residents cooperate with our efforts by not shoveling snow back into the roadways and help to clear any fire hydrants near their property."

All Camden City School District events and activities that were scheduled for Friday evening, Saturday, and Sunday have been postponed due to the expected winter weather. For more information please contact the Camden City School District at (856) 966-2000 or www.camden.k12.nj.us

In addition, all City of Camden recreational programs have been canceled during the storm watch period of Friday, Saturday and Sunday. The City's Police, Fire and EMS service will be fully operational and can be reached via phone in case of emergency through the standard 911 system. Also, Camden County (www.camdencounty.com) has implemented a new *Swift911* emergency notification system to keep residents better informed in the event of an emergency. For additional information regarding the pending storm or access to City services, Camden residents can contact the City of Camden Office of Emergency Management (OEM) Emergency Hotline beginning 10:00 PM on Friday 1/22/16 at (856) 757-7630 or (856) 968-4743. Individuals can also go to the City of Camden website at www.ci.camden.nj.us and click on the "Severe Weather Alert" portal on the City's homepage or go to www.ci.camden.nj.us/severe-weather-alert

BE PREPARED: Helpful tips

Set up emergency information sources

- **Social Media.** "Like" the [NJOEM on Facebook](#) or Follow on [Twitter](#). Be sure to sign up for Twitter Alerts at the NJOEM account set up page so you can receive a direct notification to your phone whenever NJOEM issues an alert.
- **Nixle Connect** allows the NJ State Police and the NJOEM to send messages to the public by text/SMS, e-mail, and Internet posts. Register to receive messages by sending a text message with your zip code to 888777 (data rates may apply depending on your plan). You can also register on-line at www.nixle.com.
- **NOAA Weather Radio.** NOAA Weather Radio broadcasts official Weather Service warnings, watches, forecasts and other hazard information 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, from a station nearest your location. NOAA Weather Radios are typically inexpensive, easily available in stores and can usually be programmed for your specific area. [NOAA Weather Radio All Hazards](#)
- **TV, radio and newspapers.** Continue to monitor these outlets to stay informed of breaking news and continued coverage of emergency events.
- **Cellular Mobile Emergency Alert System (CMAS).** The National Weather Service can now send free weather warnings directly to your phone if a hazard is imminent in New Jersey. Check with your wireless carrier to see if your wireless phone is WEA (Wireless Emergency Alert) enabled to receive these messages.
 - Read about WEA alerts: [Wireless Emergency Alerts](#)
 - For more CMAS info: [FCC CMAS Page](#)
- **Connect with your local information sources.** Contact your [County/City Office of Emergency Management](#) to learn about the localized information sources.
- **Get up-to-date severe weather information:**
 - [Hurricanes And Tropical Storm Forecasts - National Hurricane Center](#)
 - [New Jersey Specific Weather Forecasts, Watches And Warnings](#)

Make a Plan

- **Find out if you are in a [high risk](#) area.**
- **Know how you will [Evacuate](#).**
- **Know what it means to [Shelter-in-Place](#).**
- **Have a family communication plan** so family members know how to let others know they are safe and have a plan for reuniting if separated.
- **Register at the [American Red Cross Safe & Well website](#)** so family members can locate you if you evacuate.

- **Have a cell phone or traditional land line?** Have a backup plan if electricity, cell phone towers or utility lines fail. Be prepared for prolonged problems with phone of all types and internet connected devices.
- **Know how you will contact your utility.** If your power is out, you **MUST** report it to your utility company. Do not assume the utility company is aware that your residence is out. [The NJ Board of Public Utilities web page](#) lists all utility contact information for the state.
 - **Power outages** require special planning.
 - **Learn about [food safety](#)** during a blackout.
 - **Make a back up power plan if you are medically dependent on electricity**
- **[Individuals and Caregivers](#) managing access/functional needs** should plan now for a support network, special supplies for preparedness kit and transportation.
 - **Consider registering at [NJ Register Ready](#) if you medical, mobility and/or any other need** that may require additional assistance from emergency responders.
- **[Preparedness for Your Pet](#)** and livestock require planning. **Remember:** Shelters do not allow pets, only service animals.
- **[Build a Kit](#).** Be sure to include:
 - **Special items for children**
 - **Special medical, durable equipment and/or access/functional needs supplies** needed to maintain independence for up to 2 weeks.
 - **Make a kit for your pets**
 - **Kit in your car** in case you need to evacuate
 - **Evacuation and shelter kit** in case you evacuate, think about what special supplies you or your family will require if you are in a shelter for 2 weeks.

###

www.ci.camden.nj.us