



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact:

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Thursday, February 2, 2023
5:00 PM

Dukes County Winter Weather Advisory

WEATHER REPORT FROM NWS BOSTON/MEMA:

A dangerous arctic blast is due this weekend. Northwest wind gusts of 40-45 MPH are expected Friday into Saturday with wind chills as low as 20°. The combination of below zero air temperatures and blustery conditions will lead to “feels-like” temps near -20° for many areas by Saturday morning. Dukes County Emergency Management Association is closely monitoring the impending weather and is coordinating with our community partners and local/state officials.

CONSIDERATIONS:

- Frostbite and hypothermia can occur in less than 10 minutes if precautions are not taken
- Any power outages would be a concern given the extreme cold
- Mechanical systems like heating systems and vehicles may be adversely affected

PREPARATION/SAFETY TIPS:

- For Yourself:
 - Stay home and indoors whenever possible
 - Limit your time spent out in the cold
 - Bundle up in lightweight warm layers that covers all exposed skin
 - Stay dry/avoid sweating if outside
 - Go grocery shopping before the weather gets bad
 - Charge all electronic devices
 - Check on family, friends, and neighbors
- For Your Pets:
 - Limit their time spent out in the cold
 - Keep outdoor pets inside
 - Cover and check their paws/hooves
 - Check their water and food supply
- For Your Car:
 - Keep your gas tank at least half full
 - Maintain tire pressure
 - Notify family and/or friends if traveling
 - Drive slow and keep your distance
 - Pack an emergency supply kit (jumper cables, ice scraper, flashlight, shovel, blankets, first aid kit, water, food, etc.)

- For Your Residence:
 - Keep your residence heated to a minimum of 65°
 - Close blinds, curtains, and room doors
 - Slow drip all faucets
 - Open cabinet doors near pipes
 - Check your fuel oil levels
 - Know the location of the main water shutoff and turn off outside water
 - Use caution with indoor heaters –
 - Check that furnaces, fireplaces, wood stoves and electric heaters are working properly
 - Make sure there are no flammable items within 3 feet
 - Keep your fireplace flue closed when you're not using it
 - Plug space heaters directly into wall outlets (no extension cords) on a flat, solid surface (not on carpet) and unplug when not in use
 - Make sure smoke detectors and carbon monoxide alarms are working
 - Caulk/weather-strip windows and doors to keep cold out
 - Keep generators outside and at least 20 feet away from buildings
 - Ask a neighbor or caretaker to check on your house if you're away
- If There's a Problem:
 - Act quickly to minimize damage
 - Dial 9-1-1 for all emergencies
 - If your pipes are frozen, thaw them immediately or call a plumber
 - If your pipes burst, turn off the water, attend to the mess and properly dry/repair any water damage
 - If you lose power, go to your nearest warming shelter

LOCAL RESOURCES:

- **Warming Day Shelters** – Visit your local library/community center
 - **Aquinnah Public Library** – Fri. Closed | Sat. 11-4PM | Sun. Closed
 - **Edgartown Public Library** – Fri. 11-5PM | Sat. 11-5PM | Sun. Closed
 - **Oak Bluffs Public Library** – Fri. 10-5PM | Sat. 10-4PM | Sun. Closed
 - **Vineyard Haven Public Library** – Fri. 1-5PM | Sat. 10-5PM | Sun. 1-5PM
 - **West Tisbury Free Public Library** – Fri. 10-5PM | Sat. 9-5PM | Sun. 12-4PM
- **Warming Overnight Shelter** – Harbor Homes of Martha's Vineyard located at Martha's Vineyard Community Services (First Building) will offer extended hours this weekend during the extreme cold weather. They will be serving hot meals, hot beverages, and snacks. Anyone wishing to stay overnight in the shelter MUST enter and register as a guest between 6PM-7 PM. Any guests who enter on Friday evening are welcome to stay through until Sunday morning at 8AM. They will be open on Saturday from 8AM-5PM for drop ins. They will reopen as usual on Sunday from 6PM-8AM.
- **Large Animal Shelter** – Martha's Vineyard Agricultural Society's Animal Barn is available for animals and livestock. Call 508-693-9549 for more information.
- **Free Winter Clothes Drive** – Available at the Oak Bluffs Public Library during business hours
- **Free Community Fridge/Pantry** – Available at the West Tisbury Free Public Library during business hours

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