



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Thursday, January 27, 2022

6:00 PM

Winter Storm Update and Resources

With the impending Nor'easter anticipated to affect Dukes County weekend, the Emergency Management Directors of Dukes County would like to provide the community with an update, resources and tips to prepare. All emergency service responders are monitoring the events closely to ensure the safety of the community. The storm may cause extended interruptions of electric power, internet access, cell phone and landline service. There is a potential for hazardous travel due to strong winds, heavy snowfall, and low visibility. Power outages, wind damage, and coastal flooding are also a concern. We ask that residents make necessary preparations now before the storm arrives.

Weather Report as of 3:00 PM from

Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency & National Weather Service

The National Weather Service (NWS) has a high degree of confidence that a strong storm forecast to develop off the East Coast by this weekend will grow into a Nor'easter, bringing heavy snow, strong winds and minor to pockets of moderate coastal flooding to parts of Massachusetts. The NWS anticipates the storm will move into New England late Friday night and will intensify overnight into Saturday. Snowfall will continue through the day, becoming heavy Saturday afternoon, before tapering off in the evening. Near-blizzard conditions are possible Saturday afternoon across southeastern MA and the Cape and Islands. Based on the current forecast, the area of greatest risk is southeastern MA and the Cape and Islands where as much as 18"- 24" of snow is expected. Snow is expected to be powdery and dry over most of the state but wetter and heavier on the Cape and Islands. Accumulations of heavy wet snow on roofs may result in structural damage. Temperatures will be very cold in the wake of the storm with wind chills remaining at or below zero into Sunday. Strong winds, combined with the weight of heavy snow, may down trees and power lines, leading to power outages. Winds are expected to be strong on Saturday, especially during the afternoon and evening. Eastern MA will be at greatest risk. Strong northeast wind gusts of 50 MPH are expected with the possibility of wind gusts of 60 MPH or higher for the Cape and Islands.

Emergency Safety Preparations

Before the Storm:

- One gallon of water per day per person; additional water (fill bathtub or other containers) for flushing toilets, cleaning, pets, etc. Well water depends on electric pumps, so if the power is out, it will not work.
- Nonperishable food for at least 3 days
- Ample supply of medications and medical information sheet (prescriptions, allergies, etc.)
- First aid kit
- Necessary health-related equipment
- Flashlights, extra batteries, candles, matches; supplies for fireplace, woodstove, outdoor grill, etc.
- Cell phone/chargers (home and vehicle)

- Emergency radio (battery operated)
- Vital documents - ID, credit cards, cash, contact information for family, etc.
- Make sure you have enough fuel for a week
- Fill up or charge up vehicles
- Stow or secure outdoor furniture, grills, garden equipment, dinghies, kayaks, etc.
- Secure doors and windows; have tarps and duct tape handy
- Deal promptly with potential hazards (trees, overhanging limbs, etc.) that could cause damage
- Contact neighbors to offer assistance

During the Storm:

- Shelter in place
- Stay in rooms away from areas that may possibly be damaged from wind/rain/debris/trees
- Seek emergency shelter at your Town's Warming Shelter

After the Storm:

- Survey the damage after the danger has passed
- Safe cleanup of own property
- Contact neighbors to offer assistance
- Aid first responders by not exploring post-storm

Emergency Plans:

Please note that these emergency plans may change depending on the impact of the storm.

- **Aquinnah** – If there is a loss of power that is not restored by Sunday, January 30, 2022, the Warming Shelter at Aquinnah Town Hall (955 State Road) and the Overnight Shelter at the Wampanoag Community Center (Community Center Road) may be opened.
- **Chilmark** – Warming Shelter may be opened at the Chilmark Community Center (530 South Road). The Chilmark Fire Department will be checking in on vulnerable populations.
- **Edgartown** – Monitoring the storm with available information and making operational preparations as needed.
- **Gosnold** – Warming Shelter may be opened at the Gosnold Town Hall (28 Tower Road).
- **Oak Bluffs** – Warming Shelter may open on Sunday, January 30, 2022, from Noon to 6:00 PM at the Oak Bluffs Library (56R School Street). Masks required.
- **Tisbury** – Warming/Charging Shelter may open at the Tisbury Fire Station (215 Spring Street). Due to the expected tidal storm surge, Beach Road and Lagoon Pond Road may be closed due to flooding. An emergency parking ban will take affect Friday, January 28, 2022, at 8:00 PM until Sunday, January 30, 2022, at 6:00 AM for Main Street out to West Chop, Franklin Street, Edgartown Road, Skiff Avenue, Center Street, Spring Street, and Williams Street. Vehicles must be removed otherwise they will be towed. Alternative parking is available on Church Street and at the Tisbury Park and Ride (High Point Lane).
- **West Tisbury** – Warming Shelter will be open at the West Tisbury Library (1042 State Road) if there is a major power outage.
- **Harbor Homes** – Harbor Homes of Martha's Vineyard, located at Martha's Vineyard Community Services (first building on the left), will be extending their hours for the storm and opening Friday, January 27, 2022, at 6:00 PM until Sunday at 10:00 AM. They will be serving meals 3 times a day. There is a capacity for 18 guests. Please contact Lisa Belcastro at 508-560-3678 if you have any questions.
- **Animal Housing** – The Martha's Vineyard Agricultural Society's barns (35 Panhandle Road West Tisbury) are available for temporary emergency animal housing. Please contact MVAS Executive Director Lauren Lynch at 732-687-3412, MVAS President Brian Athearn at 508-962-2477, or MVAS Vice President Garrison Vieira at 508-989-0039 for more information. Call the Animal Shelter of Martha's Vineyard at 508-627-8662 for emergency needs for small pets.

Emergency Contact Information:

- For Emergencies call 911
- For Non-Emergencies call the Dukes County Communications Center at 508-693-1212
- To report power outages call Eversource at 1-800-592-2000