



CATAWBA COUNTY

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CATAWBA COUNTY EMERGENCY SERVICES ADVISES CITIZENS TO PREPARE FOR NEW WINTER STORM

Catawba County Emergency Services officials are advising residents to prepare for a new round of winter weather that has the potential to bring significant freezing rain and ice accumulations, which could lead to power outages, during the period from February 4 through February 6.

“Be prepared to shelter in place and stay off the roads for at least 2 -3 days”, said Karyn Yaussy, Catawba County’s Emergency Management Coordinator. “Staying off the roads allows fire, EMS, law enforcement and rescue workers to reach people that need emergency help. If you are in a minor, single vehicle accident and no one is injured, use a local wrecker service to assist or come back for your vehicle after the storm has passed.”

North Carolina Department Of Transportation and municipal public works crews will be preparing the roads for icy conditions and will plow primary and secondary roads first for emergency vehicles. It may take a significant period of time after the precipitation stops before plows can get to your area. Removal and treatment may take several days,” Yaussy added.

Catawba County Emergency Services offers the following tips to be better for prepared for the winter storm:

Be prepared to shelter in place. Keep a three-to-five-day supply of non-perishable food and bottled water on hand, along with a non-electric can opener, battery-powered radio, flashlight and extra batteries. Catawba County’s [Emergency Preparedness](http://www.catawbacountync.gov/depts/es/CommunityPrep.asp) web page (www.catawbacountync.gov/depts/es/CommunityPrep.asp) contains information and connections to other websites to help you plan for any type of emergency situation.

Stay informed.

- Tune to local radio and TV stations for official information and instructions, including weather, road closure and school closing information
- Check the [Catawba County website](http://www.catawbacountync.gov) (www.catawbacountync.gov)
- Sign up for [Community Alert System](http://www.catawbacountync.gov/alert) (www.catawbacountync.gov/alert), Catawba County’s free service that sends information to your home phone or your mobile device during an emergency.
- Have a battery-powered radio in case of power outage.

Clear snow from driveways, sidewalks, entrances.

- Residents and business owners are responsible for clearing snow and ice from sidewalks around their property.
- Consider helping neighbors if they're unable to clear their own snow. Make sure downspouts can drain away from your house to avoid potential seepage into your basement.
- To minimize the problem of a snowplow covering your driveway with snow after you've just shoveled it, shovel snow into the yard instead of into the street.

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Conserve fuel during a storm by keeping your house cooler than normal. Lower the thermostat and close off unused rooms to save energy.

Beware of carbon monoxide. If using generators, kerosene heaters or gas fireplaces, read the owner's manual for information on maintaining proper ventilation to avoid carbon monoxide poisoning. Keep heaters at least three feet from flammable objects. Do not use charcoal grills or burners inside your house or fireplace.

Check on others, help neighbors. Especially check on those who are elderly, have special medical needs or are at risk, to ensure they are safe. Don't forget pets!

Drive carefully (or not at all) -- watch where you park.

- Do not park vehicles on streets and roads when snow emergencies are declared.
- Park vehicles in driveways where available, and leave room for plows to clear the street.
- Do not drive, if at all possible, so roads will be open for emergency and snow-removal vehicles.
- Beware of “black ice” when driving — melting during the day can give way to freezing at night.
- Avoid accidents — clear snow from the top of car roofs before driving.

Avoid overexertion. Cold weather puts an added strain on the heart. Unaccustomed exercise such as shoveling snow or pushing a car can bring on a heart attack or make other medical conditions worse.

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