



NEW YORK CITY **OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT**

Office of Public Information

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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**WINTER STORM WARNING ISSUED FOR THE
NEW YORK CITY AREA**

A powerful nor'easter is bringing blizzard like conditions to the New York City area. The Office of Emergency Management has activated its Emergency Operations Center and will continue to closely monitor this situation. OEM advises New Yorkers to stay tuned to television and radio news broadcasts for further information and updates as this situation develops.

The system is expected to move in a northeasterly direction, bringing with it the heavy snowfall, gusty winds, and above-normal tides. Temperatures in New York City are forecasted to sink below the freezing point; snowfall accumulations of between eighteen (18) and twenty-four (24) inches are likely.

John Odermatt, Commissioner of the New York City Office of Emergency Management (OEM) urged all New Yorkers to closely track the progress of this system, and to take all precautions to prepare themselves for icy roads, gusty winds, near blizzard like conditions, and coastal flooding. "The present forecast calls for significant snowfall, and heavy winds, freezing temperatures, and above-normal tides to continue to affect the New York City area through this evening," Commissioner Odermatt said. "I urge all New Yorkers to take those steps necessary to protect their families and property from the hazards associated with winter storms of this type."

In his remarks, Commissioner Odermatt warned New Yorkers to dress warmly and to avoid over-exertion while shoveling heavy snow. He further stressed that motorists should proceed with caution, and be aware of icy roads and blizzard-like conditions.

To better protect themselves from some of the many hazards associated with severe winter weather, New Yorkers should:

- Use public transportation.



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- **Don't Drive.** If you must drive, use extreme caution. Be sure and clear snow away from the tailpipe of your car before starting.
 - **Dress warmly,** even if going outside for just a few minutes. Be sure to wear gloves, a snug-fitting hat, and insulated boots.
 - **Avoid over-exertion** while shoveling heavy or wet snow. Take frequent breaks in a warm location.
 - **Use snow blowers** and other mechanical snow-removal machinery with great care, and in accordance with all manufacturers' specifications.
 - **If shoveling** in your neighborhood, clear snow away from fire hydrants to make emergency access easier for firefighters.
 - **Be aware** of the danger of frostbite, and learn how to identify the signs of its onset. Keep in mind that frostbite has a tendency to affect exposed extremities (ears, fingers, toes, the nose) before other portions of the body.
 - **Check on relatives** and neighbors that may be elderly or have special needs.

Those seeking additional information on winter weather safety tips can visit OEM's website at www.nyc.gov/oem