



South Carolina Emergency Management Division

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NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Winter Weather Possible in Upstate South Carolina

COLUMBIA, S.C. (Thursday, January 17, 2:30 p.m.) - The South Carolina Emergency Management Division, state and local officials are monitoring winter weather that is expected to move through the northern part of the state. The National Weather Service predicts conditions to change rapidly Thursday evening, with the potential for a wintry mix of rain and light snow in several Upstate counties.

SCEMD urges drivers to monitor local weather reports and use caution due to the possibility of black ice on roads:

- Be aware that black ice is almost invisible.
- Be especially careful on bridges, overpasses, tunnels and on secondary roads in the morning and late evening when the air temperature is changing faster than the pavement temperature.
- Never brake suddenly while driving on ice. Applying pressure to your brakes while on ice will cause your vehicle to skid. Be sure to check your vehicles braking system and tire inflation.
- Keep your distance. The distance needed to stop on ice is twice as long as under normal driving circumstances. Keep at least a three-car distance from the vehicle in front of you.

Gusty winds along with ice and snow accumulation can down trees and power lines. Residents are encouraged to check on elderly and at-risk neighbors and relatives due to the increased potential for power outages and cold temperatures. Make sure they have a safe, warm place to stay while conditions remain cold and hazardous. SCEMD also recommends preparing a place indoors for pets and farm animals with extra food and water.

IMPORTANT NOTICE REGARDING CLOSING AND DELAY PROCEDURES FOR ALL STATE OFFICES

State government offices and their employees will follow the same winter weather hazard decisions made by the county government officials where the state office is located. For example, if county officials decide to delay the opening or close county government offices, state offices in the impacted county will follow the same schedule.

Additional Resources

scemd.org – Additional winter weather information and emergency preparation tips.

511sc.org – real time travel information from the S.C. Department of Transportation

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