



NEWS RELEASE

**For Immediate Release
February 12, 2014**

For more information, contact:
John Harkness
Fire and EMS Chief
(540) 406-1271

ORANGE COUNTY PREPARES FOR WINTER WEATHER

Orange County, VA – In preparation for the winter storm expected to impact Orange County starting this evening, Orange County officials have declared a Local State of Emergency that will go into effect as of 6:00 p.m., today, February 12, 2014. This will allow the Orange County Emergency Management team to have all the necessary tools available to respond.

Orange County residents are advised to adhere to the following safety measures during this weather-related emergency:

- Do not operate a generator inside your home or in any enclosed space. Do not use camp stoves and lanterns without ventilation.
- In the case of power outages, keep your refrigerator and freezer closed as long as possible to maintain the cold temperature.
- Be sure to have flashlights, a battery-powered and/or hand-crank radio, and extra batteries. Have food that does not need refrigeration and one gallon of water per person per day. Other important items are a first aid kit and medications, blankets, and other supplies.
- Make sure your family members, friends and neighbors, and household pets, are prepared for an extended weather event.
- VDOT recommends drivers delay travel until unsafe weather conditions have passed, if at all possible. Information regarding roads can be obtained by calling 511 or at www.511virginia.org.

Orange County will remain vigilant in its preparations and pass along information as it becomes available. Please check Orange County's webpage at www.orangecountyva.gov for updated information about local conditions.

For more information about our emergency efforts, please call John Harkness, Fire and EMS Chief, at (540) 406-1271. If you have a non-emergency issue to report regarding this storm, please call the non-emergency dispatch at (540) 672-1234.

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