



**For Immediate Release
January 14, 2022**

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ORANGE COUNTY DECLARES LOCAL STATE OF EMERGENCY

Orange County, VA – Orange County officials have declared a **Local State of Emergency**, ahead of the arrival of Winter Storm Izzy, which will go into effect as of 12:00 A.M. EST, Sunday, January 16, 2021. This will allow the Orange County Emergency Management staff access to the tools needed to respond to the dangers of this storm.

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

- To reduce the risk of a deadly buildup of carbon monoxide, please take the following precautions. Do not operate a generator inside your home or in any enclosed space, such as garages or porches. Generators should be located at least 20 feet away from doors and windows and should be oriented such that exhaust travels away from the home. Do not use camp stoves and lanterns without ventilation. Only use grills outdoors. Never use stoves for heating.
- Test your smoke and carbon monoxide detectors to ensure they are functioning properly. It is recommended that detectors be equipped with battery backup capability in the event of a power outage.
- Keep your refrigerator and freezer closed as much as possible to maintain the cold temperature and preserve food longer.
- Have flashlights, a battery-powered and/or hand-crank radio, and extra batteries. Stock 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. Citizens utilizing electrical health devices, such as oxygen concentrators, should contact their providers to make plans for power outages.
- Stay tuned to local TV and radio stations for instructions and information.
- Make note of your electric utility provider's outage phone number in case you need to report an outage. Never approach a downed power line, report it to your utility.
 - Dominion Energy: 1-866-366-4357
 - Rappahannock Electric Cooperative: 1-800-552-3904
 - Central Virginia Electric Cooperative: 1-800-367-2832

- Make sure your family members, friends, and neighbors are prepared for an extended weather event. Bring pets inside from the cold.
- Fully charge all devices for longer functionality during and after the storm.
- VDOT is advising everyone to stay off the roads during the storm unless travel is absolutely necessary. If travel is necessary, drive with caution and allow extra space around other vehicles. Information regarding roads can be obtained by calling 511 or at www.511virginia.org.
- Use extreme caution around slow-moving equipment being used to treat roads, such as snowplows.
- Be sure your vehicle is ready for winter and is in safe driving condition. Keep an emergency kit in your car. Include items such as jumper cables, blankets, first-aid kit, water, non-perishable food, cat litter or sand, shovel, flashlight and batteries, ice scraper, and cell phone charger.
- If you need help, information, or resources during the storm, call 211. Those with hearing impairments can call 711 for the Virginia Relay Center and then call (800) 230-6977. Out-of-state or videophone users may also dial (800) 230-6977 for assistance.

Pertinent information can be found at the following resources.

- www.vaemergency.gov - online source for statewide storm updates.
- VAemergency – the Facebook page for the Virginia Department of Emergency Management.
- @vdem – Twitter feed for storm updates from the Virginia Department of Emergency Management.

Orange County will remain vigilant in its preparations and to maintain communications with citizens. Please check Orange County's webpage at www.orangecountyva.gov, as well as the County's Facebook page at www.facebook.com/orangecountyva, for updates.

If you have an emergency matter to report, please call 911. If you have a non-emergency matter to report, please call (540) 672-1234.

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