



MEDIA RELEASE

ERIE COUNTY ADMINISTRATION

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
December 21, 2022

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ERIE COUNTY EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT URGES RESIDENTS TO BE PREPARED FOR SEVERE WINTER WEATHER

ERIE, PA – According to meteorologists, the pending storm will be “historic”. As many of us are focusing on the upcoming holidays, you should take a few minutes to ensure you are ready for the storm.

First, do not travel unless it is necessary. If you must, make sure you do not let your fuel get below half a tank. If you are stuck on a road or interstate, it could be several hours before traffic moves. Before you travel put together a kit with bottled water, snacks, a flashlight, extra warm clothes, blankets and any medicines that you need. Keep your cell phone charged and conserve its power. PA 5-1-1 is a good source of travel information.

This storm will have extremely high winds that will cause power outages. Make sure all Christmas decorations are tied down and secured, especially the blow up types. With the low temperatures and winds, homes will cool quickly. Be extremely careful of using any alternative heating sources. Flashlights and battery-operated lanterns are safer than using candles. Have a plan with friends or relatives to seek a warm place to stay if your power goes out. As homes cool quickly, there could be issues with frozen water pipes. Turning your faucets on a little will help to prevent the pipes from freezing.

Do not use grills, generators or other carbon monoxide producing devices inside your home.

Above all, please check in on friends, relatives and neighbors. Many people will not ask for help when needed the most.

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