

Media Advisory – Dec. 11, 2008

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County prepares crews, trucks for winter storm

Emergency Management officials urge residents to take precautions

Snohomish County road crews have sander and plow trucks on standby, ready for use during Friday and Saturday's forecasted winter storm warning.

Winter weather, including the potential for heavy snowfall in the lowlands of Snohomish County, is expected during a 24-hour period beginning Friday afternoon. At least 15 trucks with sander and plow combinations are ready for use this weekend. The county has 36 trucks available if needed.

County crews anticipate dealing with some snow and slush in higher elevations and outlying areas, followed by a potential freeze with black ice developing. The county plans to apply anti-icing chemicals to some roads ahead of the freeze.

Snohomish County Executive Aaron Reardon and the county's Department of Emergency Management are urging residents to prepare for snow, ice and possibly wind.

December and January are the two months annually where excessive cold, winter storms and ice storms descend upon the Puget Sound. Though the amounts, effects and timing of weather systems often are unpredictable, weather preparedness ensures safety, comfort and well being.

Winter storms are considered deceptive killers as most deaths are indirectly related to the storm. People die in traffic accidents on icy roads, from heart attacks while shoveling snow or from hypothermia following prolonged exposure to cold.

Residents should:

- Remain updated on current weather conditions.
- Dress in layers appropriate to the weather.
- Conserve fuel by keeping houses cooler than normal.
- Never use charcoal, propane or kerosene heaters indoors.
- Understand that winter storms have interrupted electricity for up to 14 days.
- Keep adequate food, water and prescription medications available.
- Stay indoors and off roads when possible.
- Avoid overexertion.
- Check on pets.
- Remain in their vehicles until found, if caught in a car during a winter storm.

For more information on winter weather hazards, go to

www.snoco.org/Departments/Emergency_Management/Information/Factsheets.

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