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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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*IREDELL COUNTY EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICIALS URGE RESIDENTS  
TO PREPARE FOR WINTER STORM*

**Iredell County, NC** – David Martin, Iredell County Emergency Management Director said the county is ready to respond to dangerous conditions that may result from a significant winter storm forecast to hit North Carolina Thursday night and into the weekend. He also urged citizens across Iredell County to prepare for the storm and exercise caution. “If you have not already, this is a good time to update your family emergency plans and stock up on water, blankets, non-perishable food and other supplies before ice and snow arrive.”

“The weather may look okay when you get up tomorrow morning, but the weather system is forecast to move over the state late in the day and could cause dangerous driving conditions and power outages by Friday,” said Martin.

Weather forecasters are currently predicting snowfall amounts ranging from 3 to 6 inches south of the Interstate 40 corridor and up to 8 inches to the north. The precipitation should become mainly sleet and freezing rain mix during Friday afternoon, before becoming mostly freezing rain Friday night. Significant accumulations of ice is possible during this time, enough to cause tree limbs to fall and power lines to come down.

Citizens should plan now for the possibility of power outages with this winter storm and have a plan to be self sufficient for at least a 72 hour period.

People are urged to contact emergency officials only for emergency situations. Please do not call 911 or the Highway Patrol for road conditions, power outages, etc. The lines must remain clear for emergency calls. To check road conditions, please visit [www.ncdot.org](http://www.ncdot.org).

Martin urges all citizens to practice the following winter safety tips:

- Keep alternative heating sources prepared. If you have a fireplace, store a good supply of dry, seasoned wood. Keep fire extinguishers on hand, and make sure your family knows how to use them.
- Properly vent kerosene heaters and keep any electric generators OUTSIDE and away from any open windows or doors to prevent carbon monoxide poisoning. Also, do not burn charcoal indoors. Carbon monoxide poisoning can result from charcoal fumes indoors.
- Keep fresh batteries on hand to use with flashlights and weather radios.
- Always keep at least a three-day supply of non-perishable food in your home.

- Wear multiple layers of thin clothing instead of a single layer of thick clothing to stay warm. You will be warmer and, as the temperature changes, you can easily remove layers to remain comfortable.
- If you must travel during a winter storm, store an emergency kit in your vehicle that includes: blankets, a battery-powered radio with extra batteries, a first aid kit, a flashlight with extra batteries, battery booster cables and flares, a tire repair kit and pump, a road map, a sack of cat litter (for tire traction), a tow rope, bottled water and non-perishable high-energy foods such as granola bars, extra clothing to keep dry, and a windshield scraper and brush.
- If driving on snow- or ice-covered roadways, reduce your speed. Driving at the regular speed limit will reduce your ability to control the car if you begin to slide. Leave plenty of room between you and other vehicles.
- Keep the body replenished with fluids to prevent dehydration.
- Wear layers of loose fitting, lightweight, warm clothing. Layering clothes keeps you warmer than a single layer of heavy clothing. Remove layers to avoid overheating, perspiration, and subsequent chill.

For additional emergency preparedness tips you can visit [www.ReadyNC.org](http://www.ReadyNC.org)

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