



Press Release  
Forsyth County Officials Encourage Residents to Prepare for Winter Weather  
Winter Weather Preparedness Week is Dec. 2-8

Winston-Salem/Forsyth County  
Office of Emergency Management

Forsyth County  
Public Safety Center  
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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
November 30, 2018

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**Forsyth County** – Governor Roy Cooper has declared Dec. 2 - 8 as Winter Weather Preparedness Week and state and local officials are encouraging North Carolinians to plan and prepare now, before potentially dangerous winter weather arrives.

“Some areas have already have seen early rounds of winter weather, but we want all residents to be sure they are prepared for winter weather in the months ahead,” said August Vernon, Director, Winston-Salem Forsyth County Office of Emergency Management. “Take time now to review emergency plans, update emergency supply kits and always stay informed about weather forecasts.”

North Carolina’s unpredictable winter weather patterns can be attributed to the state’s proximity to the Appalachian Mountains, Atlantic Ocean, Gulf Stream and Gulf of Mexico. Each year there are approximately six to 12 winter storms in the Piedmont, 12 or more winter storms in the mountains and usually less than four winter storms that impact the coastal counties.

Residents should monitor changing weather conditions by listening to local media and paying close attention to winter weather warnings. Remember: A **Winter Storm Watch** is issued when conditions are favorable for either heavy snow, sleet, or freezing rain within the next 48 hours, while a **Winter Storm Warning** is issued when at least 3” of snow and/or ice accumulations of ¼” or more are likely within the next 24 hours. A **Winter Weather Advisory** is issued when 1 to 3” of snow or ice accumulations of less than ¼” are expected within the next 24 hours, causing travel difficulties.

Forecasters at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Climate Prediction Center are expecting a weak El Nino pattern to develop and influence weather conditions this winter. An El Niño pattern favors wetter than normal conditions across the southeastern United States during the winter months.

“A wetter than normal winter does not necessarily mean a snowier winter,” said North Carolina Emergency Management Meteorologist Kevin Kalbaugh. “Long-range snow forecasts are pretty much impossible, but we have an increased potential of seeing above normal precipitation between December and February.”



Burke, Mayor Pro Tempore, Northeast Ward; Denise D. Adams, North Ward; Dan Besse, Southwest Ward; Robert C. Clark, MacIntosh, Northwest Ward; Annette Scippio, East Ward; James Taylor, Jr., Southeast Ward; City Manager: Lee D. Garrity  
airman; Don Martin, Vice Chair, Fleming El-Amin; Ted Kaplan; Richard V. Linville; Gloria D. Whisenhunt; Everette  
s, Jr.

Call 311 or 336-727-8000  
citylink@cityofws.org

To help ensure you are ready for winter weather, emergency management officials urge you to:

- Always keep at least a three-day supply of non-perishable food in your home.
- Keep fresh batteries on hand for weather radios and flashlights.
- Dress warmly. Wear multiple layers of thin clothing instead of a single layer of thick clothing.
- Properly vent kerosene heaters and keep any electric generators outside and away from open windows or doors to prevent carbon monoxide poisoning. Never burn charcoal indoors.
- Use a National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration weather radio to monitor for changing weather conditions.
- Keep alternative heating sources and fire extinguishers on hand. Be sure your family knows how to use them.
- Store an emergency kit in your vehicle. Include scraper, jumper cables, tow chain, sand/salt, blankets, flashlight, first aid kit and road map.

If you must travel during bad weather, emergency officials remind motorists to leave plenty of room between you and other vehicles and, if driving on snow- or ice-covered roadways, reduce your speed. If conditions worsen, pull off the highway and remain in your vehicle. Do not set out on foot unless you can see a building close by where you can take shelter.

Don't forget to include pets in your emergency plans. To keep animals safe during winter weather, emergency management officials recommend you:

- Make an emergency supplies kit for your pet and include medical records, first aid kit, enough canned/dry food and water for three to seven days and pet travel bag or carrier
- Do not leave pets outside for long periods of time
- Ensure your pet has a well-fitting collar
- Bring pets inside when temperatures drop below freezing
- Move livestock and other animals to a sheltered location with food and water

For more information on how to prepare for winter storms, check the ReadyNC app or visit [www.readync.org](http://www.readync.org). More information on tornadoes and overall emergency preparedness can be found online at <http://www.readyforsyth.org/> or [www.ReadyNC.org](http://www.ReadyNC.org). Please take a moment to 'LIKE' ReadyForsyth on Facebook to receive the most recently updated information. Forsyth County emergency officials encourage residents to download the free ReadyNC mobile app.

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# WINTER WEATHER PREPAREDNESS

## ADVISORIES, WATCHES & WARNINGS



### 3. ADVISORIES

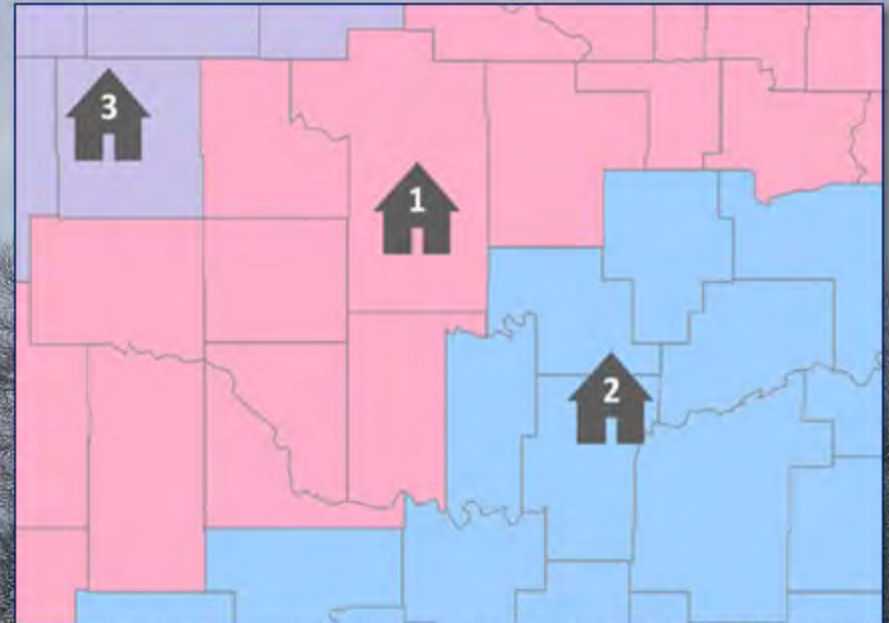
Take Action!

### 2. WATCHES

Be Prepared

### 1. WARNINGS

Take Action!



**WINTER WEATHER ADVISORY:** Issued when 1-3" of snow OR ice accumulation < 1/4" within 24 hours.

**WINTER STORM WATCH:** Issued when the following conditions are possible within 24-48 hours – at least 3" of snow and/or ice accumulation of 1/4" or more in a 12 – 24 hour period.

**WINTER STORM WARNING:** Issued when at least 3 inches of snow or ice accumulations of 1/4" or more are likely within 24 hours.

# WINTER WEATHER PREPAREDNESS

## ANATOMY OF A WINTER STORM



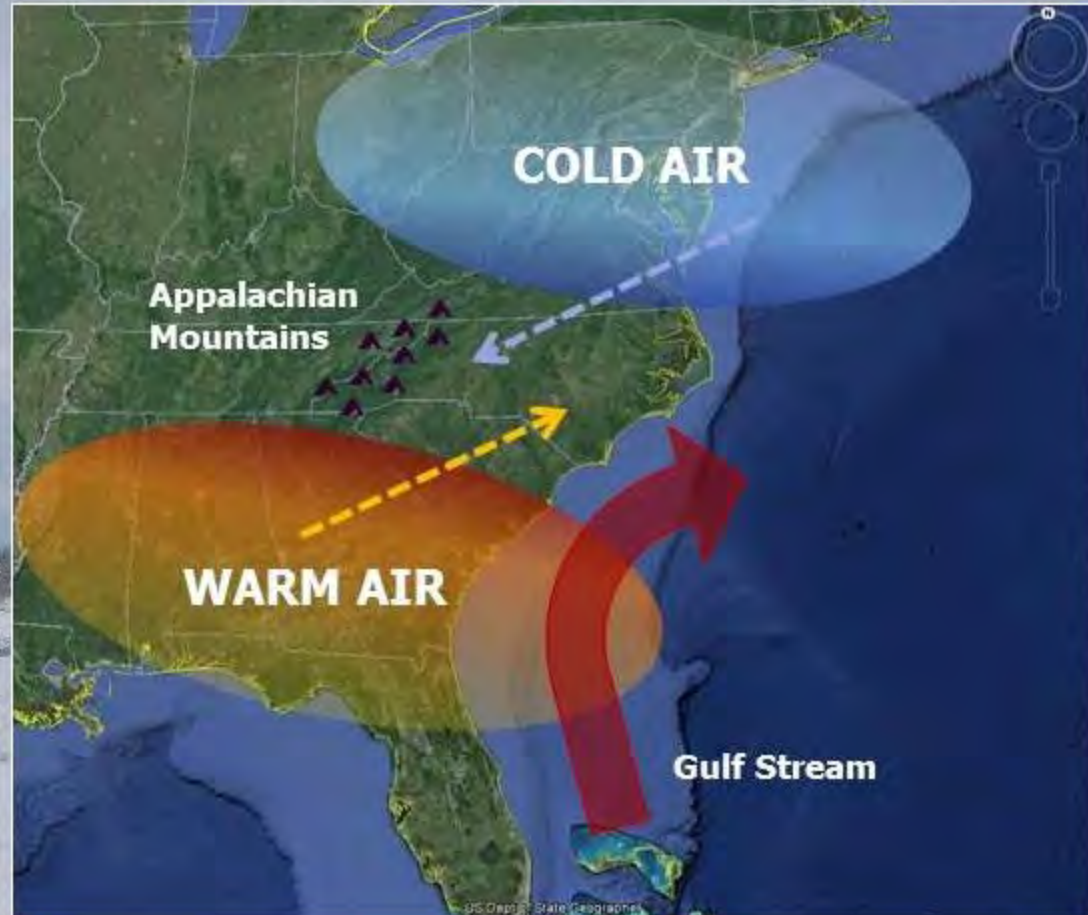
Winter weather is complex! Storms in NC result from a variety of weather patterns:

- a. Cold air from the north
- b. Warm, moist air from the south
- c. The Appalachian Mountains
- d. The warm Gulf Stream off the coast



Cold air can pile up against the mountains, allowing the lighter warm air to rise above. Freezing rain, sleet and snow can result from this setup.

This is called **Cold Air Damming**.



### **DANGER!**

Winter storms create dangerous conditions. Please use caution when traveling, shoveling snow, and heating your home! These activities can often be deceptive killers.

# WINTER WEATHER PREPAREDNESS

## MAKING YOUR HOME A SAFE HAVEN



### Preparing Your Home for Winter

- Stock an emergency supply of non-perishable foods and water. Don't forget medications and baby items!
- Ensure a flash light, battery operated radio, extra batteries, and a first-aid kit are on hand.
- Keep generators away from the home and ensure proper wiring. Never run a generator in the garage or other enclosed area.
- Check the smoke detectors for fresh batteries.
- Keep an adequate supply of heating fuel at your home.
- Insulate water pipes to keep them from freezing. In really cold weather, allow the faucets to drip slightly to avoid freezing.
- Never heat using a charcoal grill, gas grill or camp stove.
- Ensure all family members know how to evacuate in the event of a fire and designate an outdoor meeting place.

**Be aware! Keep informed of weather conditions and forecasts this winter.**



### **DANGER!**

Toxic carbon monoxide fumes from grills and stoves can build in your home and become a silent killer. Never use for cooking or heating.



# WINTER WEATHER PREPAREDNESS

## DRIVING IN WINTER WEATHER



### If you're driving:

- ❖ Make sure the car is in good running condition.
- ❖ Let someone know your destination and ETA.
- ❖ Have a cell phone handy.
- ❖ Clean snow and ice from the car before you drive.
- ❖ Make sure the gas tank is full.
- ❖ Keep basic items on hand: scraper, jumper cables, tow chain, sand/salt, blankets, flashlight, first aid kit and road map.
- ❖ Drive SLOW!



**Steer the car into the skid if you lose traction**



# WINTER WEATHER PREPAREDNESS

## HEATING YOUR HOME SAFELY



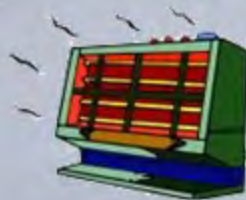
### To reduce the chance and impact of fire:

- ❖ Check smoke detectors.
- ❖ Be careful with candles.
- ❖ Inspect fireplaces and wood stoves.
- ❖ Use a sturdy screen or door in front of the fireplace.
- ❖ Only burn wood in the fireplace.
- ❖ Keep holiday decorations away from your heat source.
- ❖ Be aware of overused electrical outlets.
- ❖ Have a fire extinguisher that is fully charged.

### Common Causes



Chimney  
Fires



Space  
Heaters



Wood  
Stoves

# WINTER WEATHER PREPAREDNESS

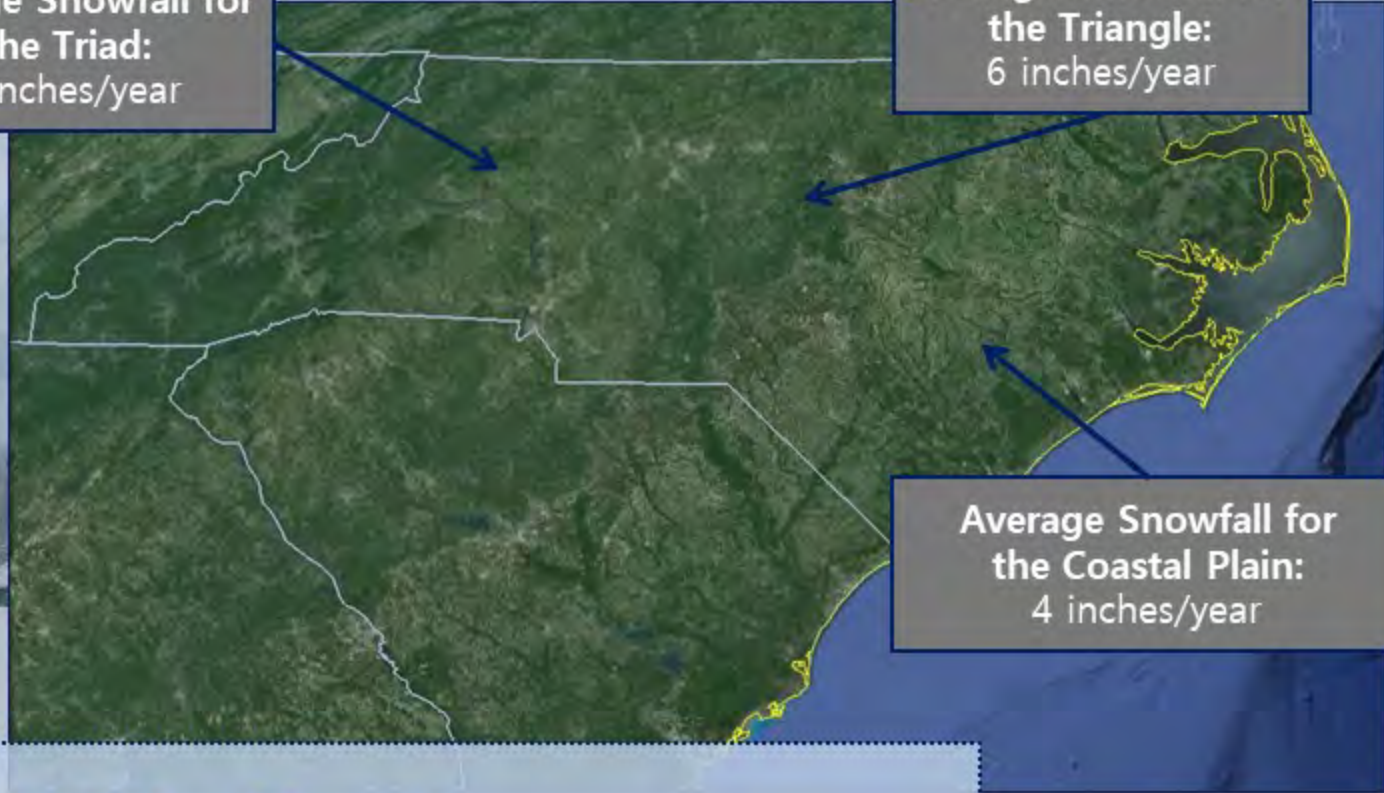
## SNOW IN NORTH CAROLINA



Average Snowfall for  
the Triad:  
9 inches/year

Average Snowfall for  
the Triangle:  
6 inches/year

Average Snowfall for  
the Coastal Plain:  
4 inches/year



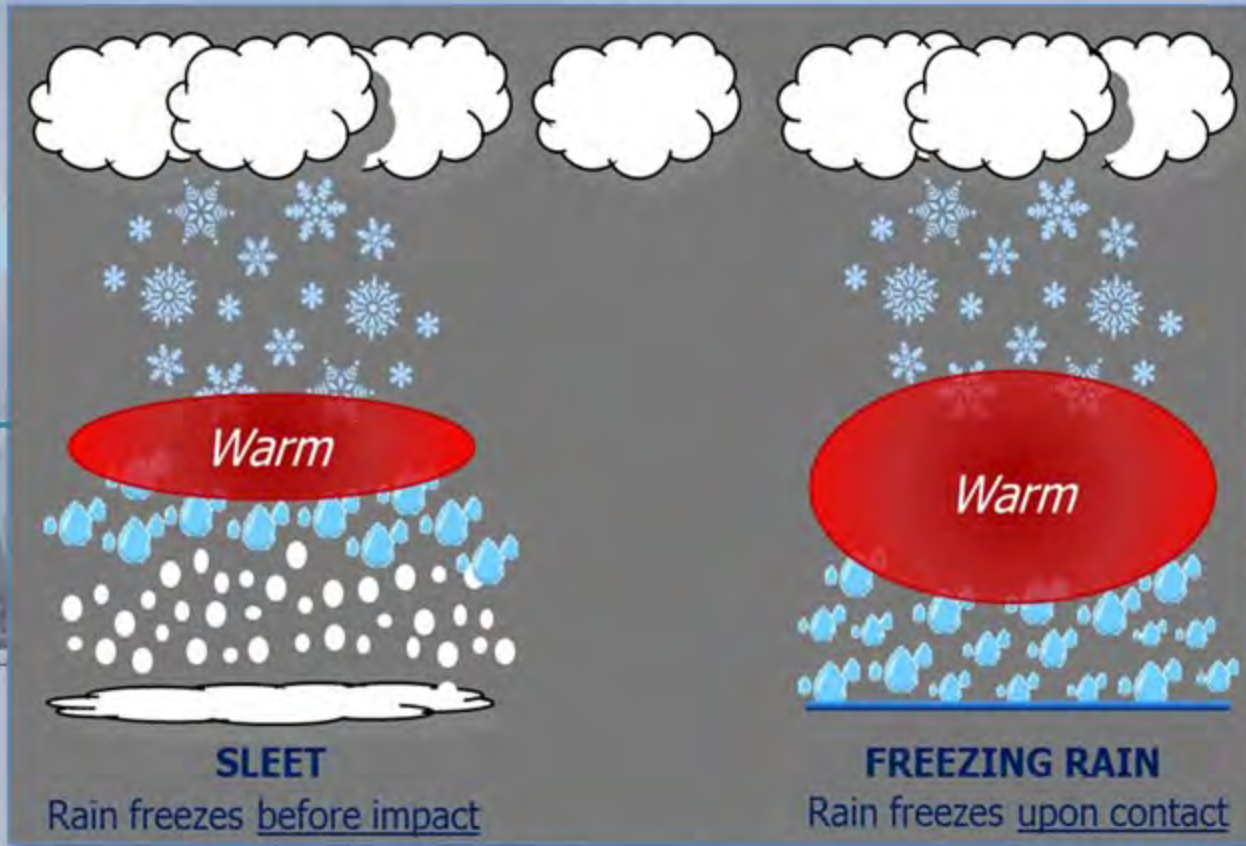
### Did You Know?...

- ❖ Most snow events in central NC occur between 5AM and 2PM.
- ❖ Nearly 70% of winter-related deaths occur when cars slide on ice.
- ❖ Road conditions typically worsen the night following snowfall.



# WINTER WEATHER PREPAREDNESS

## SLEET VS. FREEZING RAIN



Sleet forms when a raindrop falls and encounters freezing temperatures above the earth's surface, freezing into an ice pellet just before reaching the ground.

Freezing rain occurs when liquid precipitation strikes a surface that is below freezing. The liquid freezes upon contact with the ground, trees, power lines, and roads.