



# News Release

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Jan. 5, 2017

Emergency Services

Contact: Randy Beeman, Director

Telephone: 910-678-7688

E-mail: [rbeeman@co.cumberland.nc.us](mailto:rbeeman@co.cumberland.nc.us)

## **Emergency Services Urges Public to Prepare for Winter Storm**

FAYETTEVILLE – With Cumberland County under a winter storm watch for this weekend, Emergency Services urges residents to be prepared for the possibility of severe weather.

“I don’t want Cumberland County residents to take any chances. Take the time now to update your emergency plan and stock your supply kits to keep your family safe,” said Randy Beeman, Emergency Services Director.

Beeman encourages residents to practice the following winter safety tips:

- Monitor weather conditions by listening to local media or a weather radio.
- 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.
- If conditions worsen and you can no longer drive safely, pull off the highway. Stay calm and remain in your vehicle. Do not set out on foot unless you can see a building close by where you know you can take shelter.

North Carolina Emergency Management has a free mobile app to help people get ready for any type of emergency. The ReadyNC mobile app provides current traffic and weather conditions, open shelters and a list of items needed in an emergency supplies kit. Visit [readync.org](http://readync.org).

Cumberland County has a CodeRED emergency notification service that can send severe weather warnings or other emergency alerts to county residents and businesses by telephone, cell phone, text message or e-mail. Visit [co.cumberland.nc.us](http://co.cumberland.nc.us) and click on the CodeRED link.

Residents are also encouraged to follow the county on Facebook and Twitter for the latest updates.

###

**-end-**