

George County Board of Supervisors Ken Flanagan, Communications Director

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George County preparing for a Winter Storm Conditions

GC Schools and Offices closed on Jan. 27, 2014- DRAFT 2

The George County Board of Supervisors is preparing for winter storm conditions and freezing temperatures in advance of a strong Arctic cold front. The entire area is under a "Winter Storm Warning," which means a mixture of freezing rain, sleet, ice, high winds, and snow could be here within 12 hours. National Weather Service (NWS) forecasters are predicting hazardous driving conditions starting early Tuesday morning throughout Wednesday and several nights of sub-freezing temperatures.

The County is taking several precautions:

- The George County School District is closing all schools on Tuesday, Jan. 28 and Wednesday, Jan. 29 as a safety precaution. Superintendent Debbie Harrell announced the closures after speaking with surrounding school districts and NWS forecasters. Schools will reopen as soon as weather conditions allow.
- GC Solid Waste will not pickup household garbage and trash on Tuesday, Jan. 28 and Wednesday, Jan. 29. Crews will resume pickup routes on Thursday, weather permitting.
- All County offices will be closed on Tuesday, Jan. 28 to ensure employees avoid hazardous driving conditions. County offices will most likely remain closed Wednesday, Jan. 29, unless weather conditions improve. All County employees must stay in contact with their department manager. Emergency personnel and staff will remain on duty.
- County supervisors are pre-positioning road equipment and sand across their beats to responding possible icing on bridges.

Along with hazardous driving conditions, the entire area will experience temperatures well below freezing for several days. George County Emergency Management Director Nancy Smith has been in steady contact with NWS and MEMA for several days.

"My number one concern is roadway conditions Tuesday and Wednesday. But once this wintery mixture leaves, our residents will have several very cold nights. Remember, the 4-P's during a hard freeze-People, Pipes, Pets, and Plants," said Smith.

Power outages and down tree limbs are also a possibility because of icing. Right now, the NWS is predicting a quarter inch of ice for George County.

All official County announcements and news releases will come from the County's Emergency Management Office and/or Public Information Office.

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