



County of York, Pennsylvania

Office of the County Commissioners

For Immediate Release

1/21/2016

Commissioners Urge Residents To Avoid Unnecessary Travel During Storm

York County Commissioners Susan Byrnes, Doug Hoke and Chris Reilly, in coordination with the York County Office of Emergency Management, are urging people to avoid unnecessary travel during the incoming winter storm.

The Commissioners also are advising residents to heed municipal snow emergencies by removing vehicles from snow emergency routes. This allows public works crews to most effectively remove snow from the roads.

Forecasters currently are predicting a foot or more of snow could fall in York County on Friday into Saturday. Winds could become blustery, particularly on Saturday.

"Instead of venturing onto the roads, we encourage people to stay home and allow the dangerous conditions to pass," said Commissioner Doug Hoke. "Consider the storm an opportunity to catch up on household chores, go sledding with your children or dig into a great book."

In response to the expected conditions, York County 911 is taking steps to increase dispatcher staffing if needed. The Office of Emergency Management, meanwhile, will have staff available to monitor conditions and assist municipalities with any resources they may need.

The Commissioners offered the following tips to follow once the snow begins to fall:

- Ensure proper ventilation of furnaces, water heaters and other appliances that vent outside. Clear snow from exhaust pipes.
- Clear snow from gas meters. Heavy snow can cover the regulator vent and block gas service.

- Check on vulnerable neighbors, friends and relatives during and after the storm. Make sure they have an adequate supply of food, water and medicine.
- Do not call 911 to report power outages unless the outage poses a threat to safety or property (contact numbers for electricity providers are listed below).
- Never use a generator indoors or in an attached garage. A portable generator exhausts a deadly gas called carbon monoxide that is odorless and colorless. Place generators outside where exhaust fumes will not enter into enclosed spaces. The generator should be protected from direct exposure to rain and snow. Follow manufacturer instructions.
- Clear fire hydrants near your home or business from snow so the hydrants are readily accessible to fire departments. Fire hydrants should be cleared of snow from about 3 feet in each direction, with a clear path to the street.
- Clear snow off all exposed surfaces of vehicles before driving, including the top of the vehicle.
- Take care not to overexert when shoveling snow. Push the snow as you shovel because it's easier on your back than lifting the snow. Make sure to stretch before and after snow removal. Take breaks as necessary.

Residents can visit www.ready.gov for more preparedness information and also can follow the [Office of Emergency Management](#) or [York County 911](#) on Facebook to get news and updates from the agencies.

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Media Contact: Carl Lindquist, 840-2915, 818-2376

To Report A Power Outage:

- Met-Ed: 1-888-544-4877
- PPL: 1-800-342-5775
- Adams Electric: 1-800-726-2324
- PECO: 1-800-841-4141