

Storm Update



Dear Residents,

I am writing you from our Emergency Operations Center at the Newton Center Fire Station surrounded by people from Fire, Police, Cataldo Ambulance, customer service, and the Department of Public Works.

The first part of this storm has passed, but heavy winds and frigid temperatures are heading our way, making conditions difficult for the next several days.

Mother Nature has made this a complicated storm for our snow warriors because of the high winds, freezing temperatures, and drifting snow. City crews will be working through the night and into the weekend clearing roadways and the sidewalks in front of/near schools and public buildings. Because of the deep freeze and continuing winds, city crews will be working for quite a few days to get the roads and sidewalks they clear in good shape. Please be patient.

I am grateful to all our Public Safety and Public Works employees who have worked through the day and will work overnight and into the weekend.

We're asking residents to consider clearing their sidewalks and driveways as soon as possible as the temperatures will be dropping significantly, making any snow removal much more difficult in the coming days

The snow emergency and parking ban will be lifted tomorrow morning, Friday, January 5 at 8 a.m.

City Hall and the Newton Free Library will delay opening until 10 a.m. Friday. All programs at the Senior Center have been cancelled, but the phones will be answered.

Newton Public Schools and the Ed Center will be closed on Friday.

With temperatures expected to dip below zero over the weekend, we are asking everyone to look out for their neighbors and to take the following precautions:

- Make sure exhaust vents for home heating systems and automobiles are cleared of snow to prevent carbon monoxide from reaching dangerous levels.
- Use caution when using snow blowers, and never try to remove ice with your hands from the machine.
- In the extreme cold, do not go outdoors with exposed skin, and dress in layers. Also be mindful of your pets.

Any snow-related issues may be reported to the City by utilizing the online 311 reporting system at <http://www.newtonma.gov/gov/311.asp> or by using the 311 app. And as always, call 911 in case of emergency.

- The high winds could still create the potential for tree damage and scattered to widespread power outages. Any power outages should be reported directly to Eversource at 800-592-2000.
- The storm has caused a delay in trash collection both this week and next. An updated schedule is posted on the city's website at www.newtonma.gov.
- We are prepared for the potential need to provide a warm place for people to reunite with families and/or friends during the cold snap on Friday, Saturday and Sunday.

Stay warm and stay safe.

Ruthanne Fuller
Mayor of Newton

