



MEDIA RELEASE

For immediate release:
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EMERGENCY MESSAGE - WINTER STORM WARNING

The National Weather Service in Sterling Virginia has issued a Winter Storm Warning which will take effect from noon today until 7 p.m. on Wednesday. St. Mary's County can expect snow mixed with sleet at times tonight and then snow on Wednesday. Total accumulations during this storm are predicted to reach between 6 to 12 inches. This storm will have winds from the North-Northwest at 15 to 25 mph on Wednesday.

A Winter Storm Warning means significant amounts of snow and sleet and ice are expected to occur. Strong winds are also possible and this will make travel very hazardous or impossible. Citizens are asked to remain out of the elements and advised that traveling on roadways tonight and tomorrow may be extremely dangerous.

Citizens are warned that periods of power outages can be expected and are encouraged to take necessary preparedness measures. Due to heavy weight of snow and ice accumulations, there is the possibility for roof and structure damages. Please take a visual inspection of your home and business to check for possible damages or leaks. Make sure that gutter downspouts are free and clear to allow for any melting snow to exit off roofs. We also advise citizens to clear snow from around fire hydrants and please use caution while operating alternative power and heating sources. Follow manufacturer's instructions when operating and ensure for proper ventilation.

Citizens are encouraged to monitor weather conditions by watching the Weather Channel or by visiting the National Weather Service web-site at <http://www.nws.noaa.gov> or listen to your local radio stations. During the storm the Emergency Information Hotline will be updated with information at 301-475-4200 Ext. 4911 and you can also visit the county web-site at www.stmarysmd.com for Emergency Advisories. For information on power outages, call the SMECO information line at 1-877-747-6326.

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