



MEDIA RELEASE

For immediate release:
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Winter Weather Warning

The National Weather Service has issued an update on the weather conditions that the State of Maryland will experience during this weekends snow storm. It is predicted that this will be an extreme winter weather event and we can expect 20 to 30 inches of snow in our area. The heaviest snowfall will occur between 10 p.m. Friday night and 4 a.m. Saturday morning with blizzard like conditions. The snowfall will also be heavy 6 hours before and after this time period.

This system will drop between 2 and 3 inches of snow per hour and is expected to be a heavy, wet snow. This may create 10 to 16 pounds per square foot on flat surfaces. Citizens are reminded that there is also the potential for power outages due to downed trees and power lines. St. Mary's County Department of Public Safety will work closely with SMECO on power outages, and if the situation becomes an extent of 48 to 72 hours of outages, a local area shelter may be opened for the citizens of St. Mary's County.

Citizens are advised that traveling on roadways between this evening and the end of the snow storm will be extremely dangerous. Roadways conditions will be extremely hazardous with heavy accumulations of snow and ice beginning this evening around sunset. Stay inside during periods of heavy snowfall, especially during blizzard like conditions when visibility will be impossible. There is also the potential for coastal flooding, especially along the Tidal Potomac and a Coastal Flood Advisory may be issued later this evening.

The Governor of Maryland has issued an Emergency Declaration and all state and local emergency response agencies will be working throughout the duration of this storm. 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>. 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.

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