



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
DIVISION OF SOCIAL SERVICES
BUSINESS OPERATIONS

ROY COOPER
GOVERNOR

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SECRETARY

WAYNE E. BLACK
DIRECTOR

December 7, 2017

DEAR COUNTY DIRECTORS OF SOCIAL SERVICES

ATTENTION: County Department of Social Services Emergency/Disaster Coordinators

SUBJECT: NCEM Winter Weather Preparedness

The purpose of this letter is to remind agencies that winter weather season is upon us and to be proactive with winter weather planning actions.

First and foremost, please encourage staff to be mindful of their own safety. It is important for them to monitor changing weather conditions, most effectively through the local media. When winter weather warnings are issued, they should be prepared for possible power outages and/or dangerous driving conditions.

Freezing rain is most often the most dangerous winter weather threat in our region. Ice accumulations can bring down power lines and trees, disrupting power, travel and communications, potentially for days. Most deaths attributed to winter storms result from indirect dangers such as carbon monoxide poisoning from improper use of heating sources, traffic accidents and falling trees.

Please ensure your County Department of Social Services Emergency/Disaster Operations Plan, including your Shelter Operation Plan is up-to-date. All staff should be aware of their specific county plan. Also, plan for the potential that local conditions may impact staff's ability to support local operations.

If winter weather threatens North Carolina, County Social Services agencies, working with their County Emergency Management Director are to operate or support local shelter operations managed by either the American Red Cross or the county.

The Division of Social Services, along with North Carolina Emergency Management will keep you updated on any relevant information. Take the time now to ensure your county is prepared for when the next emergency/disaster threatens.

If you have questions, please contact Carlotta Dixon at 919-527-6421 or by email:

Carlotta.Dixon@dhhs.nc.gov

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AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY / AFFIRMATIVE ACTION EMPLOYER

Sincerely,



Richard Stegenga,
Deputy Division Director

Attachments (2):
NCEM Winter Preparedness-Friday
NOAA-Winter 2017