



Stay home during storm, officials urge Oklahomans

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Emergency services personnel stand together, Monday, in asking the public to stay home during harsh weather conditions which are expected overnight and Tuesday and in explaining storm preparations currently underway.

Oklahomans are strongly encouraged not to drive during the impending winter storm expected to be particularly severe along the I-44 corridor, state safety and transportation leaders urged Monday.

Officials with five agencies came together to discourage Oklahomans from driving in the storm and also to discuss winter weather preparations. Agencies represented at the press conference were:

- Oklahoma Department of Transportation
- Department of Public Safety
- Oklahoma Highway Patrol
- Oklahoma Department of Emergency Management
- Oklahoma Turnpike Authority

ODOT Director Gary Ridley said crews are standing by statewide to begin spreading sand and salt and clearing roads as the storm begins to hit.

“We have crews in every county ready to respond when the weather hits,” Ridley said. “In addition, crews in counties where less snow is expected will be on hand to help clear roads in other parts of the state.”

OHP Chief Kerry Pettingill said all days-off have been cancelled for state troopers and non-uniformed officers are being pressed into service as well.

“Highway patrol urges people not to travel tomorrow and possibly the next day,” Pettingill said. “Additionally, we are working to make sure we have as many troopers available as possible to assist those who do travel.”

DPS Commissioner Michael C. Thompson said state services will be reduced in the seven metro counties as state employees are urged to remain at home.

OEM Director Albert Ashwood said that due to the approaching winter storm, the State Emergency Operations Center is activated and officials with the Oklahoma Department of Emergency Management are working with numerous emergency response, recovery partners to take steps in advance of threatened impacts.

Officials noted that their recovery efforts will be affected by the weather and said that citizens can help the work by staying home.

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(Editors and News Directors: For more information call the ODOT Media & Public Relations Division at 405-521-6000.)

INFORMATION RELEASE

OKLAHOMA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION, MEDIA & PUBLIC RELATIONS DIVISION
200 N.E. 21st St. OKLAHOMA CITY, OK 73105-3204 PHONE 405-521-6000