STATE OF CONNECTICUT
EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS

M. JODI RELL
GOVERNOR

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Governor Rell Orders Staggered Release of State Employees; Activates Emergency Operations Center

After conducting an 8:30 AM conference call today with state agency chiefs to get the latest information about the approaching snow storm, Governor M. Jodi Rell announced that she has directed the staggered early release of non-critical state employees beginning at 10:30 AM for employees who live the farthest distance from their work location. State agency commissioners have been directed to release their employees in three stages: 10:30 AM, 11 AM and 11:30 AM. The Governor also announced that she has activated the state's Emergency Operations Center.

"My goal is to make sure people get off the roads and get safely home before the storm reaches its peak later today," Governor Rell said. "We have been closely monitoring the storm and sharing the latest forecast information with Connecticut businesses. We want to do everything we can to allow for safe travel while enabling our snow plows the opportunity to keep up with the storm throughout the day."

The Governor has provided the state's most recent weather forecast to the region's 12 major employers and to nearly 100 smaller employers in greater Hartford.

Today's storm is expected to arrive in southwestern Connecticut around 10:30 AM and is expected to arrive in the Hartford area between 11:30 AM and noon. The storm is forecast to hit fast, and heavy amounts of snow will accumulate quickly. Total snowfall amounts are expected to be 10 to 14 inches in central Connecticut, 16 inches in the northern part of the state and 7 to 11 inches on the coast.

In addition to the state Department of Transportation, several state agencies are prepared to respond to the storm, including the Connecticut Department of Public Safety, the state Military Department, the Department of Public Health and the Department of Environmental Protection.

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