



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS

M. JODI RELL
GOVERNOR

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Governor Rell Activates Emergency Operation Center at Hartford Armory In Preparation of Snow Storm

Governor M. Jodi Rell has ordered the activation of the State Emergency Operation Center at the State Armory in Hartford, at 1:00 pm today, in anticipation of the impending snow storm.

The latest National Weather Service forecast predicts snow fall beginning as early as noon in Western Connecticut and continuing through Sunday afternoon. Total snow fall accumulations are expected to range from 14" in Northwestern Connecticut to as much as 26" in Northeastern Connecticut.

The heaviest period of snow is anticipated from 7:00 p.m. tonight to 1:00 a.m. tomorrow morning. Wind gusts of up to 35 miles per hour during the course of the storm may cause blizzard conditions in the state. Snowfall amounts may exceed 2" per hour or more, which will make driving treacherous and present problems for plows keeping up with the snowfall.

Flood problems are possible Sunday morning during high tide along the Western part of the state because of the high winds and tidal stacking.

All 632 state plows and 250 private contractors will be on the roads. However with snow falling at heavy rates, coupled with high winds, road travel is expected to be treacherous.

The Governor urges all citizens to stay off the roads, if possible, this evening through tomorrow at noon for safety reasons and to allow plows to keep the roads as clear as possible. Updated forecast information will be available later this afternoon and Governor Rell will provide any new information at that time.

Governor Rell stressed the dangers that this storm presents because of extreme cold, high winds, heavy snowfall and possible severe coastal flooding.

The Governor has asked emergency management officials to brief, at 1:00 p.m., via conference call, all mayors and first selectmen concerning the storm. A special conference call will also be held for Western Connecticut shoreline officials regarding the potential of coastal flooding.

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