

The Town of Canaan NY
Your town - Your news



A Letter from the Supervisor

Dear Neighbors,

While we are a self-sufficient and hardy community, there is a storm coming our way that deserves our respect and attention. As we all get ready to brave the storm, I would like to share information from two reliable sources. **NYS Emergency Management** has provided an up-to-date assessment of the type of storm and its duration as of noon today. FEMA has provided a list of preparations to consider as we prepare for the storm.

I have a few other things to ask you to consider:

- As you are making preparations for yourselves, ***please think of your neighbors and their needs***, especially the elderly or those who live alone. Perhaps you can shop for them, bring in some wood, locate blankets or flashlights, or help with shoveling or plowing. If there is anyone on your road who may need special attention or is on medical equipment that requires power, let me know. We'll try to keep an eye on them as we get the town reopened for business. If the power is out, priority for the restoration of power is given to patients on

medical equipment. The number to share information or to volunteer is 518-764-2024.

- The Town Hall will open as an ***Emergency Warming Center*** as soon as the roads are clear, most likely Monday. Please call 518-764-2024 to confirm doors are open. We will have a warm space and the capacity to charge electronic devices. Bring your own food and whatever you will need for the time you will be here.
- **The Town Hall will be closed** for Town Clerk, Tax Collector, Assessor, and Code Enforcement services on Monday, January 26th and re-open at regularly scheduled hours.
- ***If the power is expected to be off for more than 72 hours*** we will, as with past storms, distribute water at locations throughout town. Locations will be noticed on the town Facebook pages.
- ***Please, please stay off the roads after Saturday evening.*** One of the barriers to getting roads re-opened and services restored is non-emergency traffic that creates further unsafe conditions for road, utility, and emergency personnel.

Finally, get ready, bundle up, and reach out if you need assistance. Be warm and stay safe!

Brenda Adams
Town Supervisor



Storm Prep Steps from FEMA

4 Steps to Prepare Before Winter Storm Brings Dangerous Freezing Rain and Snow to Northeast

This weekend, dangerous freezing rain and heavy snow are expected to affect millions of people across the United States.

Winter storms can cause unsafe travel conditions, prolonged power outages and disrupt routines. They can also create a higher risk of car accidents, hypothermia, frostbite and heart attacks from overexertion.

Prepare now to stay safe and avoid last-minute stress.

1. Know the Winter Storm Risks in Your Area

Forecasts can change frequently, but you can get updates by following local media and signing up for [emergency alerts](#) from local officials to get the latest updates.

Watch for these alert terms:

- **Winter Weather Advisory:** Conditions may be hazardous—be aware and cautious.
- **Winter Storm Watch:** Severe weather is possible—start preparing immediately.
- **Winter Storm Warning:** Severe weather is expected to begin—act now! If you are under a winter storm warning, find shelter right away.

Be aware of these dangerous conditions:

- **Freezing:** Freezing rain can cause power outages and disrupt communications. It also increases risks of slipping and falling. While sunshine during the day can help thaw snow, plunging temperatures after sunset may lead to refreezing on roads, sidewalks and other paved surfaces.
- **Heavy Snow:** Potential snowfall may make travel difficult or impossible in some areas. Some roads could become impassable for several days.
- **Extreme Cold:** Extended periods of cold can lead to dangerous conditions, including power outages and serious health issues like hypothermia. Vulnerable groups such as older adults, young children and those with pre-existing health conditions are at higher risk.
- **Disruptions:** Flight delays or cancellations and road closures are likely, especially Sunday and Monday. Schools and businesses may alter their schedules or use virtual options.

2. Gather Supplies

Think about what you may need to last several days if the power goes out and you

can't leave your location. Create an emergency kit and stock up now as stores or food pantries may run out of supplies.

Include items such as:

- Non-perishable food that does not require refrigeration or cooking.
- Drinking water.
- Prescription medications and first-aid supplies.
- Flashlights, batteries, power banks and phone chargers.
- Blankets, warm clothing, extra layers, hand warmers.
- Baby supplies or pet food, if needed.
- Rock salt and a working snow shovel.
- Textured grip shoes to reduce falls on slippery surfaces.

3. Protect Your Home Against Power Loss and Freezing Temperatures

Winter storms can often cause [power outages](#) that disrupt communications, utilities and complicate medical needs.

To prepare for possible outages:

- Keep phones and power banks fully charged.
- Trim trees and remove dead branches that are near your home.
- Have back up medications and alternative ways to charge medical devices.

4. Plan for School and Work Disruptions

Snow and icy conditions can lead to delays, early dismissals or closures for schools and some workplaces.

Families are encouraged to:

- Make childcare arrangements in advance, if needed.
- Check with your child's school to see if there are remote learning plans.
- Monitor district announcements and employer updates.

Planning ahead can help reduce stress if schedules change quickly.

Prepare now before the storm hits and ensure you and your family stay safe, warm and comfortable. Even if the forecast changes, you will never regret being prepared.

Visit [Ready.gov](https://www.ready.gov) for more information and checklists.



From the NYS Office of Emergency Management

The Winter Storm Severity Index has reached the major stage in Columbia County from Sunday, January 25 through 7AM on Monday, January 26th.

Expect considerable disruptions to daily life as there will be dangerous or impossible driving conditions and widespread closures and disruptions to infrastructure that may occur. That may include disruptions to power, internet, or cellular communications.

This weather event reached the major stage due to the heavy snow amount. Heavy snowfall and prolonged periods of frigid conditions are expected from Sunday, January 25 through Monday evening, January 26. Snowfall totals are forecast to be between 12 and 18 inches with localized higher amounts. The snow may mix with or change to sleet Sunday evening. Snowfall rates of 2 inches per hour are expected Sunday into Monday.

AVOID travel if possible.



Editorial services on the Town of Canaan New York Newsletter provided by L. Spencer Humphrey and Donna Mattoon.

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