



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Wolf Administration Outlines State Preparations for Winter Storm

Harrisburg, PA – Governor Tom Wolf joined members of his Cabinet to discuss steps his administration is taking to be ready to respond to a significant snowstorm that will impact most of the state overnight tonight and through tomorrow.

Speaking from Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency headquarters outside Harrisburg, Governor Wolf urged citizens to take the threat of this storm seriously by preparing their own emergency supplies and delaying all unnecessary travel so plow crews can safely and quickly clear roadways.

“This is a major snowstorm that will produce significant amounts of snow throughout the commonwealth, so we are asking Pennsylvanians to avoid travel on Tuesday unless absolutely necessary,” Governor Wolf said. “We are also urging everyone to take necessary precautions in the event of widespread power outages, and to check on elderly neighbors in the event of an emergency.”

It is important to note that the proclamation does not restrict vehicular travel on commonwealth roads, but motorists are strongly encouraged to delay all unnecessary travel and heed local road closures that may be in place.

Wolf said nearly 700 Pennsylvania National Guard troops will be put on state active duty at various armories across the state by 7:00 p.m. Monday. PA National Guard missions during the storm could include: transportation of emergency management personnel, stranded motorist welfare checks, traffic control support, commodity delivery, and vehicle recovery.

Starting at 10 p.m. tonight, the Commonwealth Response Coordination Center at PEMA will be activated with personnel from the following agencies: PEMA, Public Utility Commission, PA State Police, American Red Cross, PA Turnpike

Commission, Office of Administration, and the departments of Health, Human Services, and Military and Veterans Affairs.

To help PennDOT and PA Turnpike crews get the optimum access to the interstates and expressways during the storm, beginning at 10 p.m. Monday, these restrictions will be in place on all interstates and expressways east of Interstate 99 and including Interstate 99:

- 45 mph speed limit
- Ban on tandem truck trailers, empty trailers, towed trailers, buses, recreational vehicles and motorcycles

These restrictions will be in place on Interstates 70, 76, 78, 80, 81, 83, 84, 95, 283, 176, 180, 476, 380 and all expressways not on the interstate system. The Turnpike will have the same restrictions beginning at 10 p.m. Monday from the Bedford Interchange east to NJ and on the entire Northeastern extension. PennDOT is also cancelling all superload permits for movement on Tuesday.

PennDOT has 4,800 equipment operators, more than 2,000 plow trucks, 49 snow blowers. All of PennDOT's 11 regions will go on round-the-clock duty beginning Monday evening. PennDOT's goal is to keep roadways passable and interstates and expressways take priority over lower volume routes.

In the event travel is absolutely necessary, motorists can check conditions on more than 40,000 roadway miles, including color-coded winter conditions on 2,900 miles by visiting <http://www.511PA.com>. PennDOT's Automated Vehicle Locator plow tracking tool is available for all of the more than 2,200 PennDOT-owned and rented plow trucks, with vehicle locations viewable on [511PA](#).

Also today, PEMA activated the situational awareness unit of the PA Business Operations Center. As the storm unfolds, the PA Business Operations Center will provide information to businesses regarding impacts of the event including road restrictions, Commonwealth Response Coordination Center situation reports, and updated weather forecasts. The information is intended to help businesses plan for and recover from anticipated severe weather.

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