

News Release

City of Danville, Virginia
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City prepares for threat of weekend storm

The Danville Public Works Department will begin pretreating main thoroughfares Friday morning because of a low-pressure system passing to the southeast that may result in a snow accumulation this weekend.

According to a briefing this morning by the National Weather Service office in Blacksburg, confidence is growing that accumulating snow will arrive in northern North Carolina and southern Virginia during the day Friday into early Saturday. There will be a sharp gradient to where snow accumulates and where no snow falls from south to north. There still is uncertainty about where the axis of heaviest snow will fall.

Public Works Director Rick Drazenovich said the decision to pretreat road surfaces on Friday is because of the gradient.

“It is one of those storms in which the gradient is so steep that we might receive several inches of snow or we might receive little or no snow,” Drazenovich said. “We have to be ready in the event we receive heavy snow.”

Brine is a mixture of water and salt, on the road surface. The water in the brine evaporates, leaving the salt behind on the road. The salt breaks the bond between the snow and the roadway, and it therefore helps prevent the snow from freezing onto roads and bridges.

If snow arrives, residents and visitors are urged to proceed with caution. Only the major thoroughfares will be pretreated by the city. Remember that your car cannot start, stop or turn as quickly and surely on snow as it does on dry pavement, so think and drive accordingly, and be cautious driving and walking in parking lots.

Public Works crews are prepared for round-the-clock snow removal operations. They will begin plowing road surfaces when one inch of snow or ice has accumulated. Plowing continues only on the highest traffic volume roads until the end of the snow event.

When the snow event has ended and the main thoroughfares are cleared, crews then will move to streets that connect to primary routes and bus routes. The final stage will be residential neighborhoods.

The National Weather Service says much colder air will arrive this weekend, with wind chill values in the lower teens in the Danville area. Saturday's high is expected to be 28 degrees, with an overnight low of 16 degrees, Sunday's high will be 30 degrees, with an overnight low of 10 degrees.

Danville Utilities crews will be on standby this weekend in the event of power outages.

Residents and visitors can learn more about snow removal operations, what to do in the event of power outages, and winter safety tips by visiting the City's weather page: <http://danvilleva.gov/1907/Weather-Update>

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