

2016 Winter Weather Communications & Preparedness



Council Briefings

Seattle Department of Transportation, Department of Emergency
Management, Seattle City Light, Department of Human Services
December 12, 2016



Overview

- Storm Outlook for 2016
- City Coordination Process
- Storm Response, Preparedness, Messages
- What's Changed
- Vulnerable Populations
- Communications: Outreach & Tools

Outlook: Winter 2016

- Forecast: Weak or neutral La Nina
- Expected Winter:
 - Temperature: Cooler than average January to March
 - Precipitation: Slightly increased odds of wetter fall and winter
 - Mountain snow pack: Average to slightly above average
- Expected Events:
 - Major flooding more likely
 - Major wind storms more likely
 - Better chance of lowland snowfall than last two winters
 - Now through January: Best chance for cold and snow

Overall City Coordination Process

Thresholds for Concern

- 2-3" of rain in a 24 hour period
- Winds that create a concern for significant impacts to power & roads (consequences to people & vulnerable populations)
- 32 degrees for a 48 hour period
- Possibility of any amount of freezing rain
- Lowland snow accumulations of 1 inch or greater

[National Weather Service \(NWS\) Forecasts & Hosted Webinars](#)

Initial Coordination

- Gather & assess weather (NWS, Cliff Mass, SDoT/SPU weather services)
- Share information via email to key stakeholders including the Mayor's Emergency Executive Board
- OEM has initial discussions with key agencies and Mayor's Office
- Set time for first coordination conference call
- Begin identifying representatives for EOC Activation

[Public Messaging](#)

Department Level Preparations

- Review of plans and procedures
- Internal planning meetings
- OEM checks in with King County, the State, and other regional partners

OEM-led Conference Calls

- Incl. Mayor's Office, Key Depts, and EEB
- Latest forecast including projected impacts
- Departments share: anticipated impacts to operations, what they've done, what they are doing
- Review public information management plan
- Review EOC Objectives
- Set date time for EOC activation

Continual Review and Assessment

- Information shared with EEB and other groups
- Continue with coordination conference calls
- OR -
- Activate the EOC*

← OEM DUTY OFFICER: Continuously Monitors →

Key Public Messages/Resources

- Roads to be plowed: snow route maps show Gold and Emerald routes are top priorities for plowing to allow Metro Transit and emergency vehicles
- Sidewalks: Adjacent property owners are responsible for keeping their sidewalks clear
- New public information tools: Alert Seattle on mobile devices; Plow Tracker Map shows which roads have been plowed; Twitter has most up-to-date info

What's Changed in Snow Response

- AlertSeattle Notification Network implemented
- Weather forecasting technology has improved and provides better and more advanced notice
- 20 additional light duty plow vehicles (SDOT)
- Sensors embedded in both high bridges and in vehicles detect real-time surface temperatures (SDOT)
- Real-time Winter Weather Response Map (SDOT)
- Salt instead of sand used on streets (SDOT)
- Additional traffic cameras to help monitor road conditions during winter weather events (SDOT)

Seattle Department of Transportation Snow & Ice Routes

- Gold snow routes
 - Bare pavement all lanes within 12 hours of a lull in the storm
- Emerald snow routes
 - Bare pavement one lane each direction within 12 hours of a lull in the storm
- No residential plowing
- Plow snow to the curb line except at transit stops



Seattle City Light Storms and Power Failure

- ~60 City Light crews available – additional crews are available through mutual aid agreements
- All-hazard response and restoration plan will be implemented
- 240 members to support field operations
- Department Operations Center opened as needed

Seattle Fire Department Emergency Response

- All divisions inventory check and inspect winter supplies/equipment, replenish and repair as needed
- All divisions review adverse weather procedures and update as needed
- All response apparatus carry snow chains (Oct – Feb)



Seattle Fire Department Winter Storm Messages

- The Seattle Fire Department uses social media. Examples of messaging include:
 - Emergency incident traffic impacts
 - Be prepared (for the recent storm we encouraged residents to sign up for Alert Seattle)
 - Only use a charcoal grill, hibachi, or portable camping stove outdoors and never use them to heat your home
 - Before lighting a fire, ensure chimneys and flues are in good condition and not blocked
 - Always run a generator and any gas-powered equipment outdoors
 - Know the symptoms of carbon dioxide poisoning and get out
 - Candles – never leave unattended, or use battery powered ones

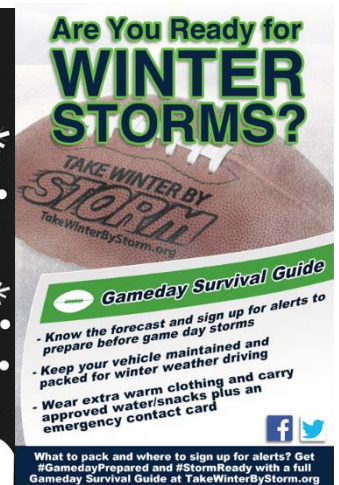
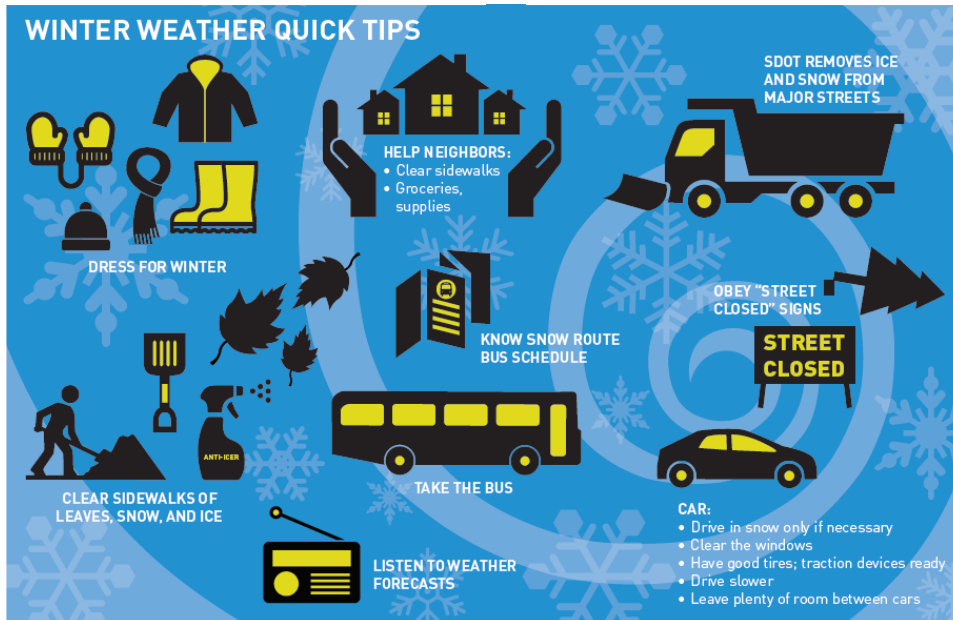
Human Services Department

Vulnerable Populations

- People Experiencing Homelessness
 - Expand overnight shelter capacity
 - Assess day shelter options
 - Outreach to population and providers
 - Additional shelter capability
- Monitor access to essential services
 - Impact to specific populations
 - Geographic areas
- Communicate key safety messages and resources

Take Winter By Storm & Other Resources

- Regional resources: <http://takewinterbystorm.org/>
- SDOT immediate response (684-ROAD)
- SCL immediate response: <http://www.seattle.gov/light/sysstat/powerOutage.asp>
- Winter weather maps: <http://sdotblog.seattle.gov/2016/11/17/the-new-2016-2017-winter-weather-brochure-and-snow-route-maps-are-here/>



Questions?

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<http://www.seattle.gov/transportation/winterweather.htm>

www.seattle.gov

