

**NEWS RELEASE**  
**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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## **NEWS RELEASE**

SUFFOLK, Va. (January 19, 2009) – The City of Suffolk is currently monitoring weather reports and is preparing for a possible winter storm. Despite the city holiday, much of the city's critical staff is on duty, readying for whatever conditions the weather may bring. Suffolk's Division of Emergency Management is tracking the storm's progress, as well as the latest advisories issued by National Weather Service – Wakefield. Emergency Management provides regular updates to the City Manager and critical city departments so that they will have the most up to date information for planning purposes.

Preparations are underway for readying roadways, as crews from the Department of Public Works have installed snow plow blades and sand and salt spreaders on approximately 15 dump trucks, with additional equipment on standby. City Manager Selena Cuffee-Glenn and Director of Public Works Eric Nielsen were on site at the Public Works Operation Center this afternoon to review preparations and speak with the crews that had been working throughout the day.

Staff from the Public Works Fleet-Management Division were also on duty, fine tuning snow removal equipment. Fleet Management staff will open up the Fleet Management facility on Forest Glen Drive when and if street maintenance workers are deployed in the field. Public Works crews are currently on stand-by and ready to respond at a moments notice. The Department of Public Utilities has also readied their staff and all pump station back-up generators have been inspected and tested.

Public Safety is also making preparations. Command staffs of both Fire and Police have been alerted. All specialized vehicles and equipment have been inspected. Staff of both organizations have been notified and are readied. Suffolk's Emergency Operations Center is also on stand-by.

The City Manager and staff will continue to monitor the storm and road conditions throughout the night. Determinations of any city office closings will be made after conditions are assessed and notifications will be made to local media and will be announced on Suffolk Municipal channel 8.

The Suffolk Police Department urges citizens to stock up on supplies and fuel before the roads become icy. They also remind drivers that bridges and overpasses are typically the first to freeze. If conditions become icy, the public is urged to stay off the roadways, if at all possible.

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