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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WAKE FOREST PREPARES FOR POSSIBILITY OF WINTRY WEATHER

WAKE FOREST, NC – December 17, 2009 – The National Weather Service in Raleigh has issued a Winter Storm Watch for Wake County in effect from 12 p.m. Friday until 7 p.m. Saturday.

Wintry precipitation is expected to develop over western and central North Carolina during the day Friday as a low pressure system approaches from the southwest. The precipitation is expected to continue Friday night into Saturday. The Triangle could see up to two inches of snow before changing over to rain late Friday, then another inch or two of snow Saturday.

In the event wintry weather strikes, the Town of Wake Forest is prepared. Crews will apply brine to the Town's bridges, overpasses and traditional slick spots, and Town staff are standing by to deal with whatever comes our way.

Wake Forest has 28 tons of sand/salt mix supply available, if needed, along with an additional 175 tons of pure salt. Also, the Town has six plows available to clear Wake Forest's 56 miles of roads.

In the event of ice or snow, Wake Forest clears thoroughfares and primary roads first. The Town does not clear private parking lots, including those in apartment and condominium complexes or at businesses.

As is always the case in severe weather events, the Town is reminding citizens to call (919) 554-6724 for storm-related, non-emergency issues, such as power outages and downed trees and power lines. Please do not call 911 unless there is an emergency posing an immediate threat to life, health, or property.

Wake Forest Power works to minimize storm impacts year-round through preventive maintenance, including trimming of trees around Wake Forest's 70-plus miles of overhead electric distribution lines. Downed trees and limbs are the leading cause of power outages during storms.

Whenever citizens encounter trees downed during storms on roads, sidewalks or other public areas, they should always contact the Town rather than trying to handle them on their own. In addition to being heavy and difficult to manage, trees and limbs often come into contact with dangerous, live electrical wires which can cause serious injury or death.

Citizens are reminded of the following tips during inclement weather:

- Do not park on streets so plows and other Town equipment can service the area.
- Again, do not attempt to deal with downed limbs or trees on a street or sidewalk on your own as they may be tangled in live power lines. Instead, call Wake Forest Power at (919) 554-6724.
- Do not call 911 unless there is an emergency posing an immediate threat to life, health, or property. All non-emergency snow calls should be placed to (919) 554-6150; customer service representatives will be staffing the phones during regular business hours, 8 am - 5 pm. Complete wintry weather information is also available on the Town's web site at <http://www.wakeforestnc.gov/winterweather.aspx>.
- For updates about parks, recreation, and cultural program cancellations, call (919) 554-6180.
- Be a good neighbor. Check on your neighbors to make sure everyone is OK.
- Stay indoors during severe winter weather. If you decide to venture out - whether walking or driving - let someone know when you are leaving and where you are going, so they can contact emergency officials should you fail to reach your destination. Take a cell phone just in case.

If the power goes out:

- To report power outages: Wake Forest Power customers call (919) 554-6724; Wake Electric customers call (919) 863-6499 or (800) 743-3155; Progress Energy customers call (800) 419-6356.
- Keep refrigerator and freezer doors closed. Food usually stays frozen about 48 hours. A refrigerator can keep food cold for about four hours. Remember, when in doubt, throw it out.
- Do not connect a generator directly to your home's electrical system. It is dangerous to you, your neighbors and utility workers. Follow manufacturer's directions regarding connecting appliances directly to your generator.
- In any power outage, utility crews restore service as quickly as possible, starting with the largest lines and facilities serving the most people.

Source: Progress Energy

In the event severe weather occurs, further updates will be issued.

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