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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WAKE FOREST PREPARES FOR POSSIBLE WINTER WEATHER

WAKE FOREST, NC – January 29, 2010 – The National Weather Service in Raleigh has issued a Winter Storm Warning for Wake County in effect from 6 p.m. Friday until midnight Saturday night. In the event wintry weather strikes, the Town of Wake Forest is prepared.

Crews began applying brine on Thursday to the Town's bridges, overpasses and traditional slick spots and will continue throughout the day Friday.

In addition, Wake Forest has 130 tons of sand available to mix with 205 tons of pure salt. The Town's three sand/salt spreaders are fully equipped and loaded and Wake Forest's six plows are fueled and ready, if needed, to clear Wake Forest's 78 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 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>.
- Decisions regarding the cancellation of parks, recreation, and cultural programs are expected to be made by noon. For updates, call (919) 554-6180.
- Be a good neighbor. Check on your neighbors to make sure everyone is OK.
- Charge your cell phone before winter weather strikes. In the event you lose power, you'll be able to use your cell phone to call your electric provider and report the outage.
- 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 your 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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