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Subject: Potential Hazardous Weather Early Tomorrow, Gov. Shumlin and Public Safety Officials Warn

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Potential Hazardous Weather Early Tomorrow, Gov. Shumlin and Public Safety Officials Warn

MONTPELIER – Gov. Peter Shumlin and public safety officials are urging Vermonters to be prepared for a day of hazardous weather conditions that are expected on Wednesday. The National Weather Service has issued a Wind Chill Warning and Winter Weather Advisory for much of the state. The Winter Weather Advisory from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. for most areas of Vermont is due to expected snow squalls producing 1 to 3 inches of snow and near zero visibility in a short time. Driving could become difficult very suddenly as windy conditions cause blowing and drifting snow and sharply falling temperatures create icy road conditions.

Motorists are urged to slow down and allow extra distance between their vehicle and the vehicle in front of them. Turn on your headlights in limited visibility to make your vehicle more visible to other motorists. If you need to stop, turn on your hazard lights and pull as far to the right side of the road as you can to avoid a collision with oncoming cars. Pack a blanket and wear warm clothes in case you become stranded, and ensure your cell phone is charged in case you need to call for help. Make note of your specific location if you go off the road and call for help.

Forecasters also say cold conditions will continue Wednesday and into Thursday with wind chills of minus-30 degrees and some areas of Vermont reaching minus-40 or colder.

“Vermonters expect cold weather in January, but the rest of this week will be bitter cold and potentially dangerous,” the Governor said. “If you are able, please take some time to check on the welfare of friends, family, and neighbors who are elderly or may otherwise need assistance to make sure they are staying warm. And don't forget to avoid hypothermia and frostbite by dressing appropriately for conditions and not staying outside too long.”

Below are some other reminders on how to keep yourself, your family, your pets, and any elderly or homebound neighbors safe during cold weather:

- Ensure you have sufficient heating fuel, as well as emergency heating equipment in case you lose electricity. If you need information on heating assistance you can call Vermont 211.

- Dress in several layers of loose-fitting, lightweight clothing, rather than a single layer of heavy clothing. Wear a hat, mittens and sturdy waterproof boots, protecting your extremities. Cover your mouth with a scarf to protect your lungs.
- Test smoke and Carbon Monoxide (CO) detectors, and change their batteries regularly. Malfunctioning heating equipment can produce harmful levels of CO, including: fuel-fired furnaces or boilers (nonelectric), space heaters with pilot lights or open flames (for example kerosene heaters, wood stoves, or fireplaces), and gas stoves or ovens – especially those with pilot lights. Cars, snowmobiles, trucks, and other vehicles run in a garage can also be sources of CO poisoning, which can be deadly. Never operate a vehicle or generator indoors; they should only be run outside and away from the home so CO cannot vent inside living areas.
- Check on your neighbors and friends if you think they may need assistance, and limit the time your pets stay out of doors.

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