



## **NEWS RELEASE**

Town of Culpeper  
400 S. Main Street  
Culpeper, VA 22701

Public Information Office  
540-937-0037

### **News Release from the Culpeper County Department of Emergency Services**

#### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Contact: Tom Williams, Director Culpeper County Emergency Services

Phone: 540-727-7161

Feb. 6, 2010

008-2010

### **Culpeper County and Town Officials, Open Shelters, Provide Tips and Warnings for a Major Snow Storm**

Snow began falling in Culpeper shortly after 8 a.m. The storm is predicted to dump up to 24 inches of snow in the town and county. Western and Northern Virginia are expected to get the most snow accumulation, according to state officials.

At 5 p.m., the Culpeper County Department of Emergency Services plans to open an emergency shelter in the Town of Culpeper at St. Stephens Episcopal Church on North East Street. Another shelter, manned by the Red Cross, will open at 6 p.m. at the Salem Volunteer Fire Company on Sperryville Pike.

Culpeper emergency services, the sheriff's office, town police and public works officials are asking motorists to stay home. Travel will be treacherous and snow clearing operations will be hampered by additional traffic and disabled and abandoned vehicles.

Gov. Bob McDonnell declared a statewide emergency yesterday, and Culpeper County followed suit when Board of Supervisors Chairman Brad Rosenbrger declared a state of emergency for Culpeper County. Declaring an emergency allows the county to ask for state support during the snow storm. Also, Virginia National Guard soldiers and vehicles may be asked to assist local officials.

Citizens may check for weather warnings, advisories and safety information on the Internet at [www.weather.gov](http://www.weather.gov). Real-time road conditions are available from VDOT by dialing 5-1-1 or on the Web at <http://511Virginia.org>.

Local officials ask people to not call 9-1-1 or the state police #77 unless there is an emergency. Do not use these numbers to ask about road conditions, report power outages or inquire about which businesses are open. These emergency numbers need to be free for true emergencies where immediate assistance is needed either for police or fire and rescue response.

If you lose power, call your electric provider, not the Culpeper County Public Safety Communications Center.

Officials also want to remind citizens to not use gas-powered electric generators indoors and to monitor the use of space heaters.

Officials caution people about health risks associated with shoveling snow or pushing a car, which could bring on a heart attack or worsen other medical conditions.

The signs of a heart attack are:

- Chest discomfort in the center of the chest that last several minutes or goes away and comes back
- Discomfort in other parts of the body, which can include pain in one or both arms, back, neck, jaw or stomach.
- Shortness of breath
- Other signs, such as lightheadedness, nausea, or breaking out in a cold sweat.

Local officials also remind businesses with a flat roof to monitor the depth of snow accumulating. A flat roof could collapse under the weight of the wet heavy snow predicted in this storm. Most new construction can withstand heavy snow, but older buildings could pose a problem.

###