

Press Releases

01-31-11 Orange County Shares Important Safety Storm Tips

With the Orange County expecting a snow and ice storm forecasted for Tuesday, February 1 and Wednesday, February 2, County Executive Edward A. Diana and Commissioner of Emergency Services Walter C. Koury recommend residents to take heed of the following suggestions:

- Try and clear flat roofs and decks, as accumulated snow can act as a sponge, and will absorb any additional sleet adding weight and stress to structures. This should only be performed by able-bodied adults, as the snow is heavy, and roofs and other surfaces may be slippery.
- When shoveling their walkways and driveways, residents are requested to clear snow from around fire hydrants, and making sure house numbers are clear of any snow so they're visible to emergency responders. Taking these few extra minutes could save time, property, and lives during an emergency.
- Stay clear of downed power lines, consider them energized and dangerous. Do not approach or drive over them.
When using power generators run them outside, and use in accordance to the manufactures' directions. Take a few minutes to review them before a storm.
- Never use gasoline in a kerosene heater. Even very small quantities of gasoline in the heater tank can cause a fire.
During power outages try to use flashlights and battery-operated candles if at all possible. Burn candles inside a one-foot circle of safety free of anything that can catch fire.
- Do not use a gas oven for heat. Ovens are designed to heat only the small space inside and running it with the door open will pour carbon monoxide into the home, and may overheat an oven causing a fire.

County Executive Diana said, "Be safe and take precautions during a storm, and don't forget to take the time to check on an elderly or physically handicapped neighbor to offer them a helping hand."

For more information, please contact the Orange County Department of Emergency Management at (845) 615-0400 or at www.orangecountygov.com. Additional information may be found on New York State Office of Emergency Management's website www.semo.state.ny.us.