

CITY OF MUSCATINE PRESS RELEASE

For more information contact:

Kevin Jenison
Public Information Officer/Communication Manager
City of Muscatine, Iowa
E-Mail: kjenison@muscatineiowa.gov
Phone: (563) 264-1550 • Fax: (563) 264-0750

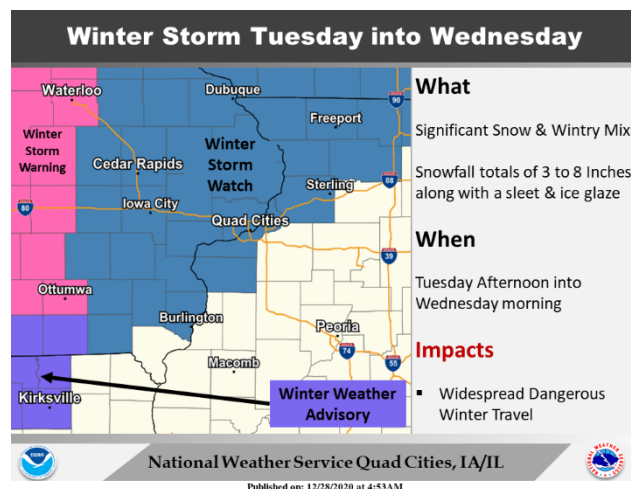
**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
DECEMBER 28, 2020**

WINTER STORM WATCH ISSUED FOR EAST CENTRAL IOWA

Department of Public Works geared up and ready for the potential of snow this week

MUSCATINE, Iowa – A Winter Storm

Watch has been issued for Muscatine and the surrounding area as a storm that has the potential to drop several inches of snow and the possibility of a glaze of ice moves closer. The watch goes is in effect at 12 p.m. Tuesday (Dec.29, 2020) and continues to 12 p.m. Wednesday (Dec. 30, 2020).



“Public Works is closely monitoring the forecasts in preparation of an anticipated winter storm,” Brian Stineman, Public Works Director, said. “All of our equipment and staff are ready to go and once snow begins to accumulate we will start applying salt, followed by plowing as necessary.”

The National Weather Service (NWS) forecast out of the [Quad Cities](#) office indicates that heavy mixed precipitation is possible with total snow accumulation of 3-8 inches and possible ice accumulations of a light glaze.

“At this time I do not expect to issue a snow emergency,” Stineman said. “However, depending on how much snow we receive, an emergency may be issued to allow for pushback of snow to the curb and cleanup of residential areas after the main snow event has concluded.”

A Snow Emergency, also known as “emergency snow removal operation”, is nothing more than the enforcement of an established plan for on-street parking that allows the Department of Public Works (DPW) the ability to quickly and safely remove snow from Muscatine streets, alleys, and city owned parking lots.

“As always, we encourage everyone who can to use off-street parking so that the plows can access the whole street,” Stineman said. “Remember to slow down, drive carefully, and enjoy the snow.”

Visit [Snow & Ice Control](#) on the City of Muscatine website for more information.

While the impact this system will have on Muscatine and the surrounding area is not known, Stineman again urged residents to reacquaint themselves with the snow procedures of the City of Muscatine and to refresh themselves on winter safety.

“Residents can assist with snow removal operations by avoiding parking on the street during these snow events,” Stineman said.

If off-street parking is not an option, residents can use the “alternate side of street” parking plan that is specified in the City of Muscatine Snow Emergency Ordinance.

The “alternate side of parking” plan allows vehicles to be parked on the odd-numbered side of the street on odd-numbered days, and on the even-numbered side of the street on even-numbered days. On all streets where parking is allowed on one side only, if the permitted side (where parking is allowed) is even numbered, vehicles can park on that side only on even-numbered days. If the permitted side (where parking is allowed) is odd-numbered, vehicles can park on that side only on odd-numbered days. No parking is ever allowed on the side of the street where parking is prohibited by posted sign.

Stineman added that the City will continue to monitor forecasts.

“We will adjust our snow removal efforts as necessary to provide the safest road conditions possible for the traveling public,” Stineman said. “As always we advise drivers to slow down and use extra caution when driving in winter weather conditions.”

Remember your sidewalks

While the City works to clear streets, alleys, and parking lots of snow and ice, it is the responsibility of property owners to clear their sidewalks. The benefits of clearing sidewalks include reducing the potential for pedestrian falls while traversing the property, and clearing a safe path for public safety personnel if they are needed at the property.

Section 3-1-4 of the Muscatine City Code states that property owners are responsible for clearing natural accumulations of snow and ice from the sidewalks within 24 hours after the last snowfall. If the property owner does not clear the sidewalk in a reasonable time, the City will attempt to notify the property owner to remove the snow and ice. If the City clears the snow and ice, the property owner will be assessed the costs of removal.

Contractors or individuals working to clear sidewalks and driveways of snow and ice accumulations are reminded that depositing snow and ice accumulations upon city streets is a violation of City Ordinance 3-1-7 (D) Dumping of Snow.

Whether you are shoveling, using a snow blower, or utilizing a snow plow, the placement of snow and ice accumulations is required to be on the property of the residence or business, and not pushed or thrown onto city streets.

Be Prepared

As we move into the winter season, residents can be better prepared for hazardous conditions by visiting the National Weather Service [Winter Safety](#) page.

Preparedness:

- A **Winter Storm Watch** is issued when conditions are favorable for significant winter weather and/or blizzard conditions. Time to prepare.
- A **Winter Storm Warning** is issued when a combination of heavy snow, blowing snow, and possibly ice mixed with snow is expected to impact the area. Time to act.
- A **Blizzard Warning** is issued when the combination of strong wind, low visibility, and heavy snow will significantly impact daily life.

If you are travelling plan extra travel time, drive slower and more cautiously, bundle up, and check the following links for road conditions:

- [National Weather Service-Quad Cities Road Conditions](#)
- [Iowa Department of Transportation Road Conditions](#)
- [Illinois Department of Transportation Road Conditions](#)