



City Hall • 795 Massachusetts Avenue • Cambridge • Massachusetts • 02139
617.349.4300 • Fax: 617.349.4307 • TTY: 617.349.4242 • www.cambridgema.gov

For Immediate Release

Contact: Lee Gianetti, Director of Communications
617.349.3300 • lgianetti@cambridgema.gov

City of Cambridge Activates Emergency Operations Center for Blizzard

City Coordinates Snow Response; Emergency Shelter for Cambridge Residents Open at 11pm

Cambridge, MA—Jan. 26, 2014 — The City of Cambridge has activated an Emergency Operations Center (EOC) to coordinate its response to the storm bearing down on the region. “There is a lot of advanced planning and preparation that goes into the City’s response to a storm like we are experiencing,” says Richard C. Rossi, City Manager. “For the duration of this storm and the clean-up period afterwards, the City will be continually evaluating our snow operations, monitoring public safety issues across the City, and communicating with City agencies, NSTAR, and the Commonwealth. As we learn new information, we will adjust our response as needed.”

The City is opening an Emergency Shelter for Cambridge residents in the War Memorial Recreation Center attached to the Cambridge Rindge and Latin School (CRLS) beginning at 11 pm. Residents can enter the shelter from the War Memorial Recreation Center entrance located at 1640 Cambridge Street. Citizens with questions about the shelter should call the Emergency Communications Center at 617-349-3300. Information on how people should prepare prior to heading to the shelter is available on cambridgema.gov.

The forecasted amounts of snow will present many challenges for the City and its residents. “Public Work crews will be working around the clock to keep major roads clear of snow and ice. Keeping these roads open are a critical public safety priority,” says Owen O’Riordan, Commissioner of Public Works. “With more than 125 miles of streets and 23 miles of public sidewalks to clear, the department has a priority list of streets that are cleared first, and then we move down the list. While every street is important to us, it may take some time before the crews can fully clear smaller streets.”

A major concern during this storm is the possibility of widespread power outages. Residents should report any outages directly to NSTAR at 800-592-2000. Downed tree limbs and wires in the public way can be reported to 617-349-3300. Residents should not approach downed tree limbs and should use extreme caution to avoid downed wires as they could still be live.

The City encourages residents to consider relatives, friends & neighbors that live alone, are elderly, or have a medical condition. Please check in by phone or in person with elders and people with disabilities to ensure that they are safe or if they are in need of assistance with clearing snow.

Updated information will be available at www.cambridgema.gov throughout the storm. In addition, the public is encouraged to follow updates on [@CambMA](https://twitter.com/CambMA) and on [Facebook at CambridgeMA.Gov](https://www.facebook.com/CambridgeMA.Gov). The City will be utilizing the hash tag #CambMASnow on Twitter to help the public follow the conversation. Members of the public can also call 617-349-4800 or 617-349-4700 for information. Members of the public are encouraged to sign-up to receive notification of snow emergency parking bans at <http://www.cambridgema.gov/AlertNetwork>.