

STATE OF CONNECTICUT

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

Manisha Juthani, MD
Commissioner



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ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH AND DRINKING WATER BRANCH

DWS Circular Letter# 2022-0XX

TO: Community Public Water Systems
FROM: Lori J. Mathieu, Public Health Branch Chief
DATE: January 28, 2022
SUBJECT: Severe Weather Preparedness Reminder – Northeast Winter Storm

Handwritten signature of Lori J. Mathieu in blue ink, dated '22.

As you are all aware, there is a significant winter storm predicted to hit northeastern U.S. late Friday through Saturday with snow fall totals up to 20 inches, whiteout conditions and gusting winds. DWS sent an early alert on this topic yesterday through Everbridge to all CPWS. For the latest forecast updates visit <https://www.nhc.noaa.gov>

Timing: Late Friday night through Saturday night

Hazards & Impacts: - 12 to 20 inches of snow expected, with heavier amounts the further east.
- Near whiteout conditions during the height of the storm
- Potential blizzard storm force winds with the possibility of power outages.

The Drinking Water Section encourages all community water systems to do the following in preparation for the storm's impacts:

- Test the backup power generators under load and top off associated fuel tanks
- Identify emergency response staff and assign roles and responsibilities
- Draft and prepare messages to be communicated to the media, the public and public officials
- Draft and prepare the template of a boil water advisory, in English & other languages deemed necessary to your service area, so it is ready and available if needed, [Boil-Water-Notices-and-Advisories](#)
- Review the emergency response plans, update phone numbers and emergency contact information
- Identify all of your critical water facilities, critical customers and potential shelters in your service area

You are reminded to report any and all emergency incidents (loss of pressure, infrastructure failures, flooding, storm damage, facility access problems, etc.) through the [WEBEOC](#) and to the Department of Public Health as soon as possible. It is recommended that you log onto WebEOC to refresh yourself of the login procedure before the storm begins ([WebEOC quick reference](#)) and contact Sachin Patel at Sachin.Patel@ct.gov with any questions or concerns.

If your community water system experiences a power outage leading to a low water pressure, then you must alert your customers to boil the water and notify the DPH by contacting our emergency number at **860-692-2333**.

c. Deputy Commissioner Heather Aaron, MPH, LNHA, Department of Public Health



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