

PRESS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

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Winter Storm Updates and Preparation for April 3rd through April 4th

Emergency Management officials are preparing for a late season winter storm, with anticipated coastal flooding during the Thursday morning high tide and potential for power outages due to heavy snow and strong winds.

Light precipitation is expected to begin mid-afternoon on Wednesday, increasing in intensity during the overnight hours and through the morning on Thursday. Although the high tide is relatively low, the timing of tide coincides with an expected 2-to-3-foot storm surge and strong northeasterly winds. This will likely cause coastal and tidal river flooding during the morning commute on Thursday. If you live in a flood prone area, now is the time to plan.

Review these tips for flooding preparation: <https://www.ready.gov/floods>

Snowfall totals along the coastline remain an unknown variable. Precipitation is expected to start as light rain on Wednesday afternoon but will change to snow overnight. Whether precipitation continues as snow or switches back to rain depends on the track of the storm. A change in the track as little as 10 miles will have a profound effect on our snowfall totals. Any snow that does fall will be wet and heavy, risking further damage to trees and tree limbs that are already weakened from recent icing events. Snow combined with northeasterly wind gusts predicted to be more than 50 miles per hour are likely to produce power outages. CMP stands ready to respond with additional out-of-state power and tree crews already on their way.

Review these tips about preparing for power outages: <https://www.ready.gov/power-outages>

Traveling in and around the coastal areas of Old Orchard Beach will be difficult on Thursday morning. If you do not need to travel, stay at home! Emergency crews will be busy mitigating storm related hazards; unnecessary vehicular and foot traffic in the affected area makes their jobs more dangerous. If you do have to travel, obey road closures. Do not drive around barricades, they are there for your safety.

Continue to monitor the National Weather Service and official media outlets for updated forecasts.

Expect an update from official town sources by 3 PM on Wednesday with any additional information.