

Status Report #1 – Thursday Evening January 2 (10:15pm)

(Smyrna) – Delaware Emergency Management Agency (DEMA) officials, along with other emergency response agencies across the state are monitoring the snowstorm that is making its way through the state overnight. The National Weather Service (NWS) posted a Winter Storm Warning for New Castle County earlier today, extended the warning to Kent and Sussex Counties Thursday evening, while increasing the amount of snow expected. NWS forecasters are now saying that as much as 6-8 inches of snow could fall in New Castle and Kent Counties, with 3-5 inches in Sussex County.

The weather conditions bring two problems to the state – snow accumulations and high winds. Coastal Flood Advisories are up for Kent and Sussex Counties. Additionally, the winds will cause the snow to drift and create patchy areas on roadways.

Drivers should use extreme caution throughout the storm period. The other problem is the extreme cold associated with this weather. Temperatures will be in the teens overnight across the state, and by morning, wind chills could register around -5 degrees Fahrenheit. Those venturing outside should dress appropriately as hypothermia is a possible danger. Pets should be sheltered or brought indoors.

Delaware State Police report:

New Castle County

Main and secondary roads are still passable, however they are becoming snow covered. Only one lane is getting by on most major roads. It is snowing heavily and is windy. Roads are

treacherous. 33 accidents and disabled vehicles in a two hour period.

Property Damage Accidents: 33

Personal Injury Accidents: 0

Disabled vehicles: 12

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Kent County

Roads are snow covered or accumulating.

Personal Injury Accidents: 2

Property Damage Accidents: 9

Disabled Vehicles: 1

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Sussex County

Primary and secondary roads in the north of county are starting to cover. Southern roads just wet. Snow is falling in all parts of county at this time.

Personal Injury: Accidents 0

Property Damage Accidents: 2

Disabled Vehicles: 0

DelDOT dropped the speed limit on I-495 to 45MPH earlier in the evening due to road conditions.