

# **News Release**

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# Winter Weather Update #5

Another refreeze likely tonight, hazardous conditions could extend into tomorrow

With another refreeze expected overnight, roads are likely to remain hazardous into tomorrow, particularly along secondary routes.

Based on the latest information from the National Weather Service, including the likelihood of new black ice formation, inperson county operations will remain suspended Friday, January 24, with employees working remotely. This includes the Charleston County Judicial Center, Register of Deeds, and all Charleston County Public Library branches.

Charleston County will remain at OPCON 2, with the Emergency Operations Center activated throughout the night.

Local law enforcement agencies will continue to monitor conditions overnight and may close bridges within their jurisdiction that they deem unsafe for travel.

Current bridge and road closures can be tracked in real time via SCDOT's Roadway Information System here.

To keep phone lines clear for emergencies, residents are reminded to not call 911 to request updates on road conditions.

#### **Public Works Updates**

In coordination with SCDOT, county Public Works personnel are working around the clock to clear and treat area roads and bridges. Their 24-hour shifts will continue overnight and into tomorrow.

Crews with motor graders have been dispatched throughout the area to break up layers of ice still packed onto roadways. Operations will shift to salting and sanding overnight to combat the expected refreeze and help restore traction to impacted roads and bridges.

Greenville and Spartanburg Counties dispatched five crews overnight who are currently assisting with local plowing and salting efforts.

County personnel continue assisting SCDOT in their ongoing efforts to reopen the James Island Connector, which closed earlier today due to icy conditions.

In conjunction with other county facilities, the Bees Ferry Landfill and county Convenience Centers will remain closed Friday.

Due to continued hazardous driving conditions along secondary routes, curbside recycling collection will remain suspended Friday. As long as conditions allow, tomorrow's routes will be collected on Saturday. Crews will collect Wednesday's and Thursday's routes in accordance with their normal collection schedule.

#### **Sheltering Information:**

Due to continued below freezing temperatures, the general population and pet shelter at the Charleston County Sheriff's Administration Building (3831 Leeds Ave) will open tonight and Friday night from 6 p.m. to 6 a.m. It is expected to close at 6 a.m. Saturday.

The warming center at the Seacoast Dream Center (5505 N. Rhett Ave., North Charleston) will open at 7 p.m. tonight until 7 a.m. tomorrow. Charleston County is providing additional blankets and cots to help increase the center's capacity.

## **County Operational Updates:**

The Charleston County Council Committees originally scheduled to meet tonight will instead convene at 5:30 p.m., Tuesday, January 28, prior to the regularly scheduled County Council meeting.

## **Charleston Center**

- All Charleston Center outpatient and ADSAP services are canceled through Friday, January 24.
- The Opioid Treatment Program clinic will be closed through Friday, January 24, and is expected to open for normal hours on Saturday, January 25.
- Virtual consulting will be provided as needed.

## **Bond Court**

• One session is scheduled for Friday, January 24 at 2 p.m.

#### **Additional Information and Resources**

Residents are encouraged to follow Charleston County Government on social media and sign up for the <u>Community Alert</u> <u>Notification System</u> and <u>official county newsletter</u>.

For the most accurate and up-to-date weather forecasts, residents should stay tuned to the <u>National Weather Service</u> <u>Charleston</u> websites, as well as local media and <u>SCEMD's SC Emergency Manager app</u>. For checklists and tips on how to prepare for hazardous conditions, download SCEMD's official <u>South Carolina Severe Winter Weather Guide</u>.

In keeping with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), those needing assistance should contact Charleston County at (843) 202-6917 during regular business hours.

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