



## TOWN COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING

21 Main Street

Tuesday, February 11, 2025 at 9:00 AM

### MINUTES

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#### AN OPEN MEETING OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF WARRENTON, VIRGINIA, WAS HELD ON FEBRUARY 11<sup>TH</sup>, 2025, AT 9:00 AM

##### Work Session

##### PRESENT

Mr. Carter Nevill, Mayor; Mr. Roy Francis; Mr. William Semple; Mr. Larry Kovalik; Ms. Michele O'Halloran; Mr. Eric Gagnon; Mr. Frank Cassidy, Town Manager; Mr. Stephen Clough, Town Clerk; Mr. Chap Petersen Town Attorney.

##### ABSENT

Mr. Paul Mooney; Mr. David McGuire

##### Regular Meeting

Cancelled due to the weather with items postponed to March.

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#### I. WORKSESSION - 9:00 AM

##### 1. Emergency Management Update

Mr. Frank Cassidy, Town Manager, introduced Mr. Johnny Switzer, noting his role in revamping the Town's emergency management and response program. Mr. Cassidy stated that while the recent weather event was unplanned, the revamped program was working phenomenally well. Mr. Switzer was present to discuss Winter Storm Blair and provide an update on the current weather situation.

Mr. Johnny Switzer provided an overview of the Office of Emergency Management, highlighting its proactive approach to citizen response and recovery. Mr. Cassidy emphasized the importance of spot reports and emails in keeping Council informed, particularly regarding issues like Dominion power outages. He noted significant power outages during the last storm, Winter Storm Blair, with three power lines down in the Main Street area.

Mr. Switzer detailed the Town's preparedness efforts, including:

- **Chapter 20 of Town Code:** Establishes the Office of Emergency Management and its role in declarations and recovery efforts.
- **Emergency Operations Plan (EOP):** Adopted in 2022 and renewed every four years, this plan outlines five levels of response, with local declarations enabling coordination with

the Virginia Department of Emergency Management (VDEM) and access to resources like the Army National Guard.

- **Continuity of Operations Plan (COOP):** This plan ensures town government continues running during emergencies, identifying successors for essential departments.
- **Community Water System Contingencies:** Plans are in place for water distribution centers if the water supply is impacted.
- **Dam Emergency Action Plans:** The Warren Reservoir and Airlie Reservoir dams have specific emergency action plans.
- **Radiological Emergency Response Plan:** In place due to the Town being within a 50-mile fallout zone.
- **Emergency Procedures Guide:** An internal guide for staff on general emergencies, fire, or evacuation.
- **Hazardous Weather Action Plan:** Used internally and for special event planning.

Councilwoman O'Halloran inquired about evacuation plans, and Mr. Switzer confirmed the Town falls under Fauquier County's and VDOT's broader evacuation plans.

Councilmember Kovalik asked about communication methods during emergencies, to which Mr. Switzer explained the use of Fauquier County's Rave system, capable of Wireless Emergency Alerts (WEA) via cell phones, TVs, and radio, with geo-fencing capabilities. He confirmed these systems would be used for water distribution or other public utility issues.

**Winter Storm Blair Review** Mr. Switzer reported that the Town was still recovering from Winter Storm Blair, which caused significant power outages and widespread tree damage. Internal questionnaires are being used to continuously improve response. A challenge identified was getting residents and businesses to clear their sidewalks, emphasizing the public safety risk, particularly for schoolchildren. Public Works and the Department of Community Development partnered to outreach to businesses, with approximately eighty percent complying once the impact was understood. The after-action report was attached for Council's review.

Councilmember Semple commended the creation of the Emergency Management Office in 2020, highlighting the value of having a thoughtful plan for early response.

Mr. Switzer clarified that the Town has an obligation to respond to all residents and facilities.

**Warrenton COOP** Mr. Switzer stated that the Continuity of Operations Plan (COOP) had a minor update and complies with Title 44 disaster laws. He noted that parts of the plan are not public due to safety and security concerns, but a closed session could be held for deeper discussion. Mr. Switzer explained that the plan was ready for Council approval at the next meeting.

Councilmen Kovalik questioned the COOP's relation to the comprehensive plan and if facilities like the WARF would be considered community facilities for continuity.

Mr. Switzer confirmed the COOP Tied into the comp plan and that facilities like the WARF could be vital (e.g., as a warming shelter during the ice storm).

Councilmember Semple asked if the WARF has backup power, and Mr. Switzer confirmed it has a generator sufficient to keep it operational.

Mr. Switzer informed Council about an impending storm forecasted to bring 5-6 inches of snow with ice and sleet, posing risks of additional power lines and tree damage. He recommended Council consider a local emergency declaration to trigger state assistance, procurement flexibility (allowing use of vendors without active purchase orders), and access to National Guard resources already staged in town. He noted that Governor Youngkin had already issued a state declaration. Such a declaration does not cost the Town anything.

Mayor Nevill inquired as to how the Town responds to isolated, unpredicted events without a state declaration.

Mr. Switzer explained that public safety plans are immediately activated, and the Town Manager can issue a state of emergency immediately, seeking Council verification later if feasibility is an issue due to time or severity. He clarified that a local declaration could initiate state-level coordination and potentially lead to a federal declaration if severity warrants.

Discussion ensued regarding rescheduling the evening meeting due to the weather. Mr. Switzer stated he could support either decision but noted it would be challenging for residents to attend.

Mr. Cassidy added that Town operations remain open, but the building might close to citizens for safety. He emphasized that a local declaration keeps the Town in line for FEMA funding regardless of county declarations. A new weather update indicated the county government and library would close at noon today, and freezing temperatures were expected until tomorrow afternoon with 5-6 inches of snow and a chance of ice/sleet mix.

Councilmember Semple proposed discussing the evening meeting cancellation now rather than waiting.

Mr. Stephen Clough, Town Clerk, clarified the options to the council for rescheduling. He Explained that a vote to reschedule a meeting with a public hearing component would keep the advertisement valid. He also explained that a special meeting has less rigid advertisement requirements.

The discussion of new business items and the ability to decide them in the work session was raised. The new Business item proposed was to initiate a Zoning Ordinance Text Amendment to remove Data Centers as an acceptable use.

Town Attorney, Mr. Chap Petersen, confirmed new business items not requiring public hearings could be taken up in the work session.

Mr. Cassidy cautioned against rushing decisions inconsistent with established policies, especially for new directions that haven't been vetted by staff or properly communicated to the public, citing potential liability.

Councilmen Semple argued that some new business is a continuation of prior discussions, highlighting the data center issue as an example of correcting past oversights in public participation.

Mr. Petersen advised that delaying a change to an ordinance if an application is filed for an allowable use could create problems.

Mr. Cassidy reiterated that no data center applications are currently in the pipeline and that the process for such developments takes years.

Councilmember Francis made a motion to direct staff and the Town Attorney to take all necessary actions to remove all references to data centers from all relevant sections of the Town Zoning Ordinance, prepare an appropriate text amendment, and take steps to publish requisite notices and schedule public hearings for this modification. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Kovalik.

Motion put forth by Councilmember Francis was to direct staff and the Town Attorney to take all necessary actions to remove all references to data centers from all relevant sections of the Town Zoning Ordinance, prepare an appropriate text amendment, and take steps to publish requisite notices and schedule public hearings for this modification.

Seconded by Councilmen Kovalik

The vote was as follows:

**Ayes: Mr. Roy Francis; Mr. William Semple; Mr. Larry Kovalik; Ms. Michele O'Halloran; Mr. Eric Gagnon.**

**Nays:**

**Abstention:**

**Absent: Mr. Paul Mooney; Mr. David McGuire.**

The motion passed unanimously; Town Staff and the Town Attorney were directed to take all necessary actions to remove all references to data centers from all relevant sections of the Town Zoning Ordinance, prepare an appropriate text amendment, and take steps to publish requisite notices and schedule public hearings for this modification.

Following this, discussion returned to the weather impact on the evening meeting. Mr. Cassidy suggested continuing the meeting to March, allowing for a special meeting if urgent matters arise.

Councilmember O'Halloran made a motion to cancel this evening's meeting and to defer all actions until the March meeting.

The motion was seconded by Councilmember Francis.



The vote was as follows:

**Ayes:** Mr. Roy Francis; Mr. William Semple; Mr. Larry Kovalik; Ms. Michele O'Halloran; Mr. Eric Gagnon.

**Nays:**

**Abstention:**

**Absent:** Mr. Paul Mooney; Mr. David McGuire.

The motion passed unanimously; the evening meeting was canceled and actions deferred to March

Mr. Switzer confirmed that the local declaration, if signed, would override snow emergency routes, making the public hearing tonight unnecessary.

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## **2. Planning Commission Update**

Mr. Rob Walton, Director of Community Development, provided an update from the January Planning Commission meeting. Mr. Stewart was reelected as Chair, Terry Lasher as Vice Chair, and Ms. Doreen Barbour as Secretary. They adopted the 2025 meeting schedule (third Tuesday for regular meetings, fourth Tuesday for work sessions) and continued working on their bylaws. The 2024 annual report was attached. Mr. Walton offered to schedule a presentation in March if desired by Council. No questions were raised by Council.

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## **3. Preliminary Budget Discussion**

Mr. Frank Cassidy, Town Manager, introduced the preliminary budget discussion, emphasizing the goal of greater Council engagement and collaboration in the budget process. He presented the budget as the Town's guiding document and roadmap for policies, highlighting the complexity of managing a town with over 10,000 residents, extensive water and sewer lines, trash services, and parks. He stressed that it is a "needs-based budget," reflecting fiscal conservatism and responsibility, rather than "wants-based," implying that any cuts would impact service levels.

Mr. Cassidy noted that this would be a difficult budget year and urged Council to work collaboratively to make hard decisions. He outlined staff's goals, which include transparency, continuous improvement, preserving Warrenton's "small town charm" and services, and maintaining a sustainable and flexible approach with integrity and empathy. He highlighted the staff's winning culture and dedication to the Town. He stated that the budget has been redesigned with a focus on continuous improvement, realistic projects, and respecting subject matter experts. He cited the Culpeper speed hump as an example of being "strong enough to say we made a mistake" and adapting to challenges.

Mr. Cassidy described the Town's budget as a "three-legged stool," primarily supported by business taxes (meals tax, business license tax) which are volatile, contrasting with more stable general property taxes. He stated that 22 cents of every dollar is spent on capital, 21 cents on public works, and so on. Key focus areas for the budget include the wastewater treatment plant, water plant, roads, sidewalks, walkability, connectivity, sustainability, resiliency, and meeting minimum standards.

He then delved into specific financial challenges:

- **Property Taxes:** Historically, the Town's budget growth (38% in 10 years) has not kept pace with inflation or peer communities like Culpeper (97% growth). The current 4-cent property tax rate, a decrease from 18 cents historically, means an average property pays \$400/year, which barely covers a fraction of services like trash pickup. Herndon, with a growth rate lower than Warrenton, has a property tax rate of 26 cents.
- **Deferred Maintenance:** Significant investments are needed for infrastructure, including roads and the wastewater treatment plant, due to past neglect.
- **Sanitation Services:** The Town is facing a \$2 million project due to equipment issues with new "blue trucks." Options for a sanitation fee (e.g., \$15/month) were presented to potentially shift pressure from the general fund.
- **Budget Deficit:** After preliminary cuts, there remains a deficit of \$600,000-\$700,000, primarily driven by inflation and increased service costs. Health insurance benefits, not yet factored, are expected to rise.

Mr. Cassidy encouraged Council to actively participate in the budgeting process through individual or group meetings, stating that staff were open to questions and new ideas. He explained that the "misguided attempts to fund unnecessary things" mentioned in the staff report referred to practices like using the I&I (infiltration and inflow) account as a "slush fund" for projects not properly budgeted, and unproductive "carryovers." He clarified that the statement about "fundamental government operations lost" refers to a national trend where government's basic functions (health, safety, welfare) are sometimes overlooked in favor of private property initiatives, stressing the need for a holistic approach to serving the entire community and managing external impacts like traffic from commuters.

Councilmember Semple requested line items for expenses to better understand financial conclusions. Mr. Cassidy confirmed this information would be provided and reiterated that proposed fee increases or tax adjustments are options for discussion, not final recommendations, and that cutting services would be the alternative.

Councilmen Kovalik questioned if special assessments could be levied on new growth or if programs like a "star program" for senior citizens could mitigate tax increases.

Mr. Cassidy stated these were good ideas for staff to research. Discussion on online sales tax collection and distribution was held, confirming that while sales tax revenue is distributed to localities, state-level changes (e.g., limiting meals tax) could impact the Town's revenue.

## **Staff Report on Committees and an Additional Evening Meeting Combined Budget Summary**

Mr. Cassidy addressed the topic of committees, referring to a list of existing committees that Town staff are already involved with. He explained that the current government model treats Council as a "committee of the whole," with information shared broadly rather than through a formal committee structure like Culpeper's, which is designed differently. He noted that adding more committees would strain staff resources, as Community Development staff, for example, are already working evenings for existing board and commission meetings.

Councilmember Semple argued that committees, especially those involving citizens, allow Council members to develop expertise on specific topics and provide a channel for direct citizen input, leading to better policy.

Mayor Nevill countered stating that successful committees are task-oriented with clearly defined missions and end goals, unlike standing committees which can become inefficient and lead to neglect of critical issues, citing past deferred maintenance due to "stagnant" committees.

The discussion explored whether liaison roles for Council members on existing boards, like the Planning Commission, might be a better approach than new formal committees.

Mr. Cassidy suggested that a Finance Committee could be a valuable action-oriented committee to assist with the budget.

Councilmember Gagnon asked about the estimated hourly costs for staff attending committee meetings, and Mr. Cassidy referred to existing spreadsheets for general cost estimates.

Councilmember Kovalik shared an example of a past Transportation Safety Committee with minimal staff, suggesting it could be a model.

Mr. Cassidy reiterated that staff is open to direct engagement with Council members for information and feedback, rather than necessarily needing more formal committees. He emphasized that citizen concerns often drive staff action, offering the example of the Culpeper speed hump, but decisions must adhere to national safety and VDOT rules. He requested more direct feedback on the information provided to Council.

Councilmen Semple requested the conversation shift to setting the slate for members of the Warrenton Commission on Open and Transparent Government.

Councilmember Semple introduced a topic to establish and populate the Town and Warrenton Commission on Open and Transparent Government . He proposed three citizen nominations: Mr. Mike Kokoszka (Ward 1), described as the HOA president in the Highlands area with extensive knowledge of Warrenton development issues ; Mr. David Norden, a 16-year former member of the town council ; and Mr. Ken Alm, a member of the county planning commission for several years and an advocate for the town, who runs a citizen group that reviews county-wide topics .

Councilmen Semple moved to approve these nominations to serve on the committee.

Councilmember Gagnon seconded the motion and echoed positive comments about Mike Kokoszka 's knowledge and the strong backgrounds of David Norden and Ken Alm .

Councilwoman O'Halloran inquired if town employees would be involved or if the committee would stand alone .

Councilman Semple responded that town staff would be involved as required by the committee's activity. He clarified that the committee's objective would be to review past adjudicated applications for transparency and openness, not active applications, to avoid interfering with ongoing processes. He stated that the public would also be able to request reviews of certain town processes they felt lacked full transparency.

**Vote on Commission on Open and Transparent Government Appointments:** A motion was made to appoint the three named individuals and the two council members to this commission

The vote was as follows:

**Ayes:** Mr. Roy Francis; Mr. William Semple; Mr. Larry Kovalik; Ms. Michele O'Halloran; Mr. Eric Gagnon.

**Nays:**

**Abstention:**

**Absent:** Mr. Paul Mooney; Mr. David McGuire.

The motion passed unanimously; Mr. Mike Kokoszka, Mr. David Norden, and Mr. Ken Alm were appointed to the Warrenton Commission on Open and Transparent Government.

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#### 4. Agenda Review

The Mayor noted there was no agenda to review as the evening meeting had been cancelled.

Mr. Cassidy agreed and requested liberty to discuss a few additional items. He brought up a discussion point regarding 18 Court Street, the Old Town Hall building. He explained that the County is exploring the possibility of converting the Warren Green building back into a boutique hotel, and 18 Court Street is being considered as an accessory space. He stated that No formal proposals have been made, but property appraisals are being sought.

Councilmember Francis expressed strong support, emphasizing the transformative economic development benefits for the Town and County, particularly addressing the shortage of hotel beds for events and tourism.

Councilmember Semple raised concerns about supporting infrastructure, specifically parking, and suggested a liaison committee for coordination.

Councilmember O'Halloran also approved the conversion due to the convenience for visitors.

Councilmember Gagnon raised the Arrington Voluntary Settlement Agreement, noting an upcoming court date of April 24, and questioned whether Council should take up the discussion now or hold a special meeting on the topic before the next regularly scheduled Council meeting.

Councilmember Semple recommended a special meeting solely for this topic to ensure proper publicization.

Mayor Nevill challenged the need for reversal, citing past Council approval (6-1 vote in December) and near-unanimous support from the Council of Local Governments.

Councilmember Kovalik argued that his concerns stem from the process by which the agreement advanced, noting a lack of Town Planning Commission involvement despite significant impacts on the Town, including transportation, commercial development traffic, and issues with the View Hill parcel's re-zoning history. He detailed concerns about the project's evolving density, wastewater treatment impacts, and competing with existing Town facilities, like the WARF pool. He emphasized that the County Planning Commission had recommended denial.

Councilmen Kovalik stressed that the motion aimed to bring proper public input to a matter that had been "improperly brought into the public forum" initially.

Mr. Stephen Clough, Town Clerk, confirmed that a special meeting could be advertised by Friday for the next week's paper or with 12 hours' notice online. He clarified that publication in a local paper is not required for a special meeting. He stated that the meeting could be held during the day to avoid impacting staff, with dates to be coordinated by the clerk.

The Clerk was directed to coordinate with the Council to set the date for the Special Meeting to discuss the Arrington Voluntary Settlement Agreement.

Councilmember O'Halloran requested a staff report for the special meeting on the impacts of withdrawing from the VSA, specifically on the opening of Taylor Middle School, the sewer lift station, and construction growth implications.

Mr. Petersen confirmed the April 24 trial date for the VSA and requested at least 30 days' notice from Council if a change in direction is decided to inform the three-judge panel before they begin reviewing materials. He also confirmed that a public hearing on an ordinance would be needed to reverse the previous ordinance.

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## **ADJOURNMENT.**

**With no further business, this meeting was adjourned at 12:09 PM on Tuesday, February 11<sup>th</sup>, 2025.**

**I hereby certify that this is a true and exact record of actions taken by the Town Council of the Town of Warrenton on February 11<sup>th</sup>, 2025.**

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Stephen M. Clough  
Town Recorder

Attachments:

- 1) Handouts to Council. February 11<sup>th</sup>, 2025.
- 2) Signed legislation.

DRAFT



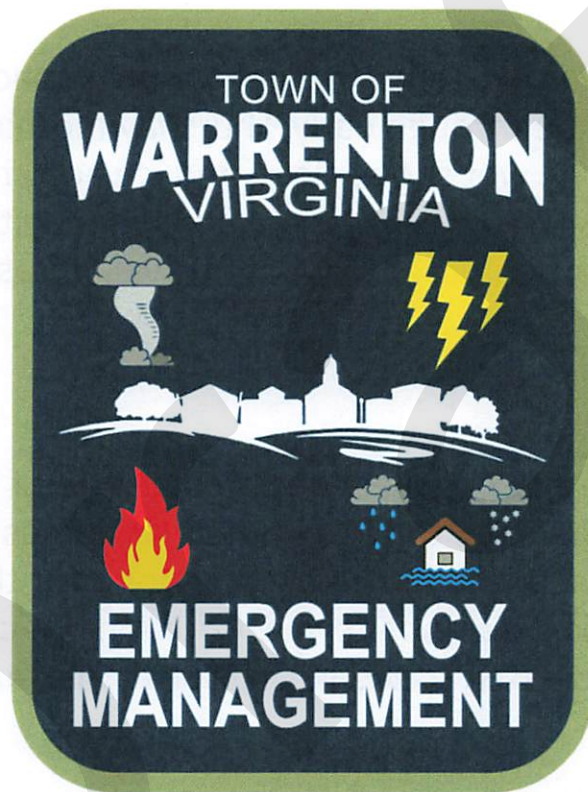
The Town of Warrenton  
P.O. Box 341  
Warrenton, VA 20188  
P (540) 347-1101  
F (540) 349-2414

## **February 11th, 2025, Regular Town Council Meeting Minutes**

### **Attachment 1: Handouts to Council**

# Elected Officials Briefing

## Winter Storm Harlow



February 11, 2025



**Town of Warrenton, Virginia  
Office of Emergency Management  
Winter Storm Harlow**

**SPOT REPORT: # 4**

**DATE: 2/10/24**

**TIME: 1800**

**Elected Officials Briefing: Winter Storm Harlow - Warrenton, VA**

**Subject:** Winter Storm Harlow Impact and Local Emergency Declaration

**Situation:**

Winter Storm Harlow is expected to significantly impact the Warrenton area today and continue through early Thursday morning. Current forecasts predict heavy, wet snow, sleet, and ice accumulations ranging from six to ten inches. This precipitation, combined with potential ice accumulation, poses a significant threat to travel, infrastructure, and public safety.

**State Response:**

Governor Youngkin has proactively declared a state of emergency, enabling the Commonwealth to pre-position resources strategically. Warrenton has been selected as the staging point for the Virginia Army National Guard Debris Clearance teams. Additionally, chainsaw teams from the Department of Forestry, based in Charlottesville, are pre-positioned in the region.

**Local Response and Emergency Declaration:**

The Warrenton Office of Emergency Management (OEM) has been in constant communication with the Virginia Department of Emergency Management (VDEM) regional office. To effectively access state resources and coordinate response efforts, a local declaration of emergency is required. The OEM has drafted a local declaration for the Town Manager's consideration.



# Town of Warrenton, Virginia

## Office of Emergency Management

### Winter Storm Harlow

#### Benefits of a Local Emergency Declaration:

A local declaration of emergency provides several critical benefits:

- **Access to State Resources:** It formally activates the Town's emergency plan and serves as the trigger for requesting assistance from the state, including the National Guard, Department of Forestry, and other available resources. Without a local declaration, accessing these resources can be significantly delayed or even denied.
- **Streamlined Coordination:** The declaration facilitates seamless coordination with VDEM and other state agencies. This ensures a unified and efficient response to the storm's impact.
- **Liability Protection:** In certain circumstances, a declaration can offer some liability protection for the Town and its personnel acting in good faith during the emergency response.
- **Cost Recovery:** A declaration is often a prerequisite for seeking reimbursement from the state and federal governments for eligible emergency response costs. This can be crucial for recovering expenses related to snow removal, debris clearance, and other emergency services.
- **Public Messaging:** A declaration sends a clear message to residents about the seriousness of the situation, encouraging preparedness and caution. It also allows the Town to disseminate critical information more effectively through various channels.
- **Implementation of Emergency Measures:** The declaration empowers the Town to implement necessary emergency measures, such as travel restrictions, curfews (if needed), and the activation of emergency shelters.

#### Next Steps:

The Town Council will need to consider approving the proposed local declaration of emergency. The OEM recommends swift action to ensure the Town can effectively respond to the impending storm and access necessary resources. Further communication and briefings will be provided as the storm progresses and impacts become clearer.



# Town of Warrenton, Virginia

## Office of Emergency Management

### Winter Storm Harlow

- EM / EOC – Monitoring / Pre-Alert Yellow
- EOC Activation – Virtual 2/11 @ 0700
- Posted Snow Emergency Routes – In-Effect Tuesday 12 AM
- Local Declaration Drafted – Pending Review - Town Administration
- Regular Town Council Work Session Tomorrow – Still Being Held
- Public Works Staffed on 24 HR rotation effective tomorrow at 0700.
- EM / DPW Strike Team Staffed 0800 Tomorrow through the duration of the event
- Warming Shelter – No Plans currently for activation unless the need arises.

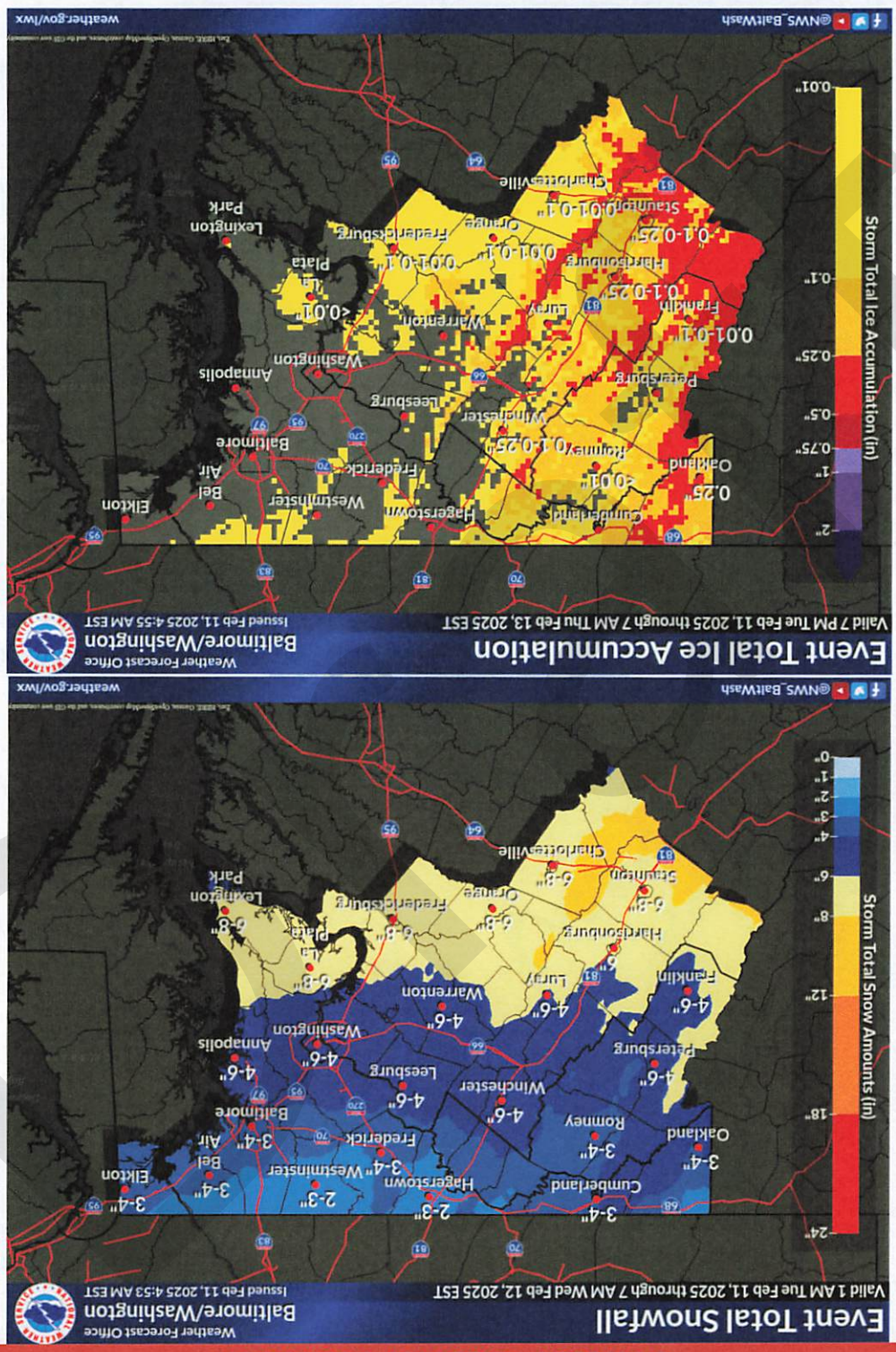
**Please note:**

- This is a preliminary forecast and may change.
- Please monitor weather updates closely.
- Be prepared for potential travel delays and disruptions.

Timing:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Tuesday - Tuesday night: Feb 11-12.</li><li>▪ Late Wednesday - early Thursday: Feb 12-13.</li></ul>
Impacts:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Winter Storm Warning is in effect for impactful snow and/or ice Tuesday through Tuesday night. 6 – 10+ inches of heavy wet snow, sleet and ice.</li><li>○ Significant travel impacts and closures are possible across the entire area.</li><li>▪ There is a winter storm threat late Wednesday through early Thursday for the potential of impactful snow and ice.</li></ul>
Forecast Confidence:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Confidence is high for snow/wintry mix Tuesday into Tuesday night.</li><li>▪ Confidence is medium for wintry precipitation occurring late Wednesday into Thursday, but low for snow/ice amounts.</li></ul>
Alert Level:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Full Activation</li></ul>
Next Report:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Final Report</li></ul>



# Town of Warrenton, Virginia Office of Emergency Management Winter Storm Harlow

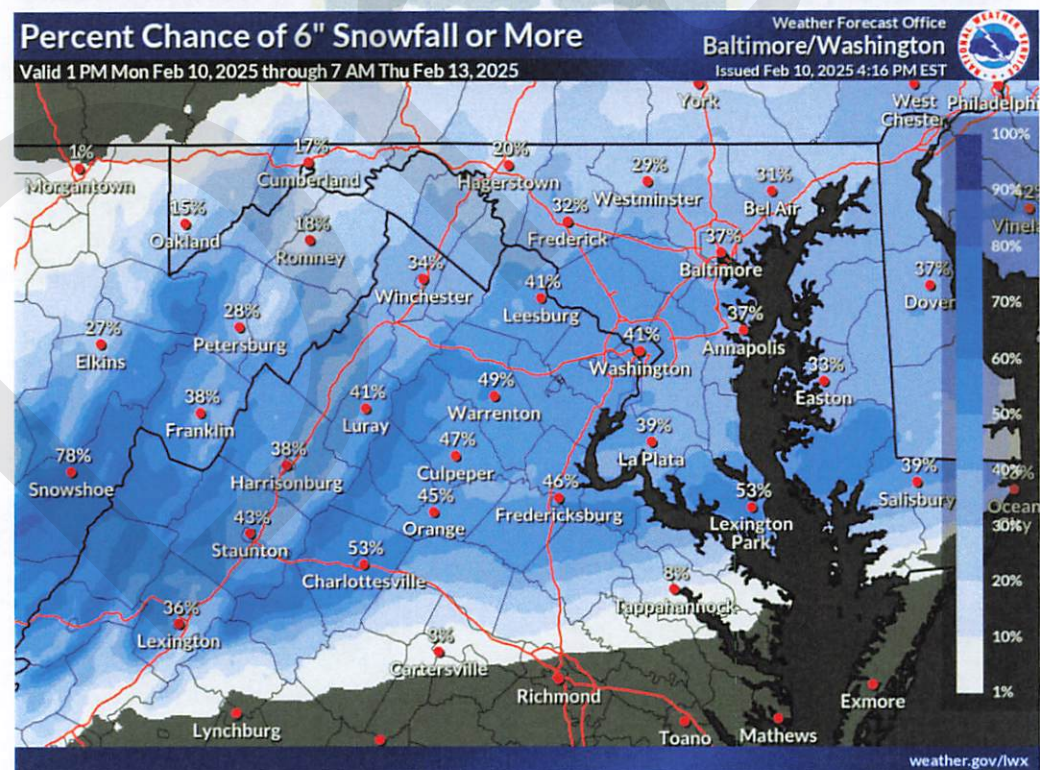
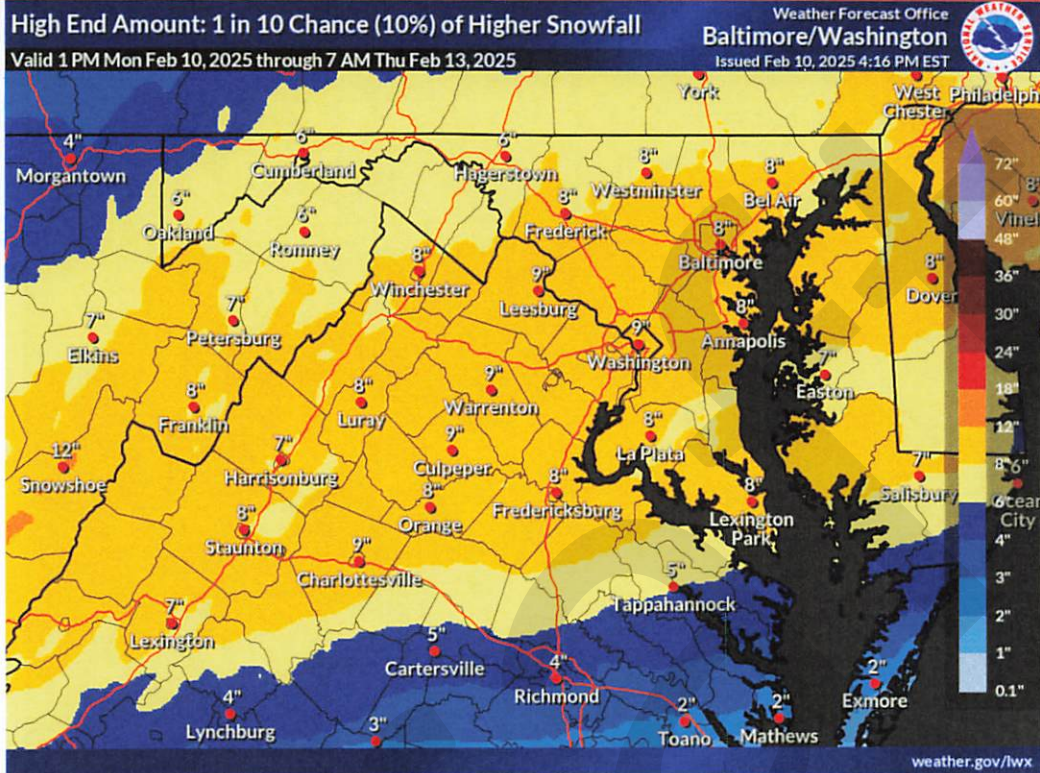




# Town of Warrenton, Virginia

## Office of Emergency Management

### Winter Storm Harlow





# Town of Warrenton, Virginia

## Office of Emergency Management

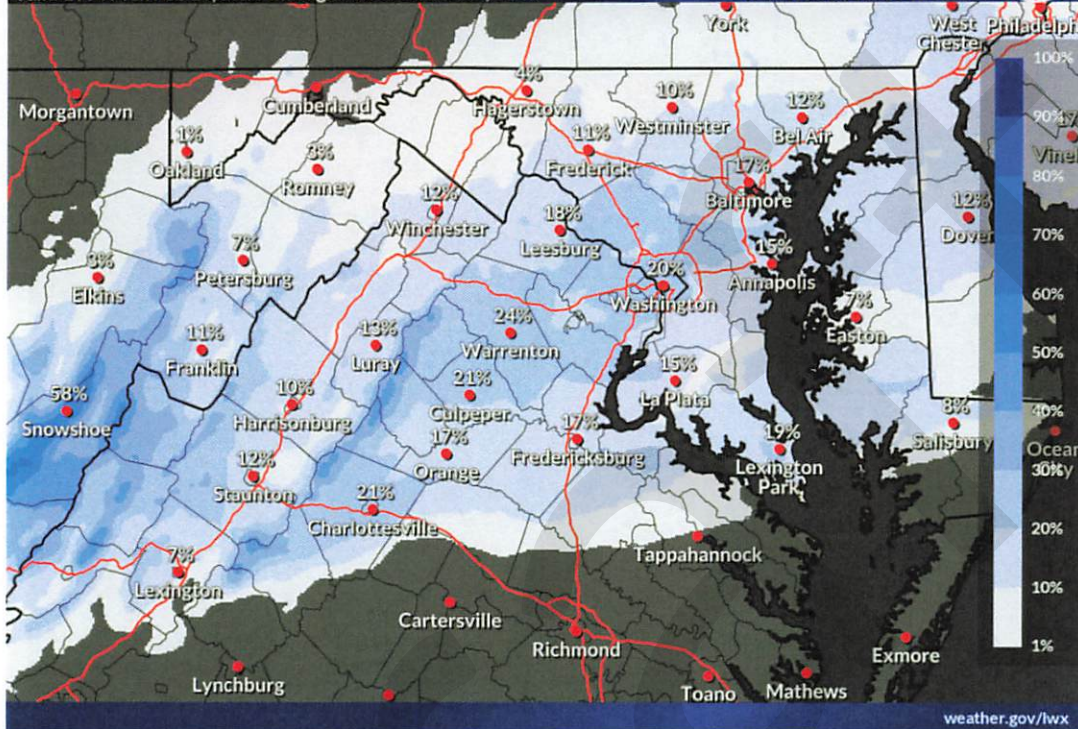
### Winter Storm Harlow

#### Percent Chance of 8" Snowfall or More

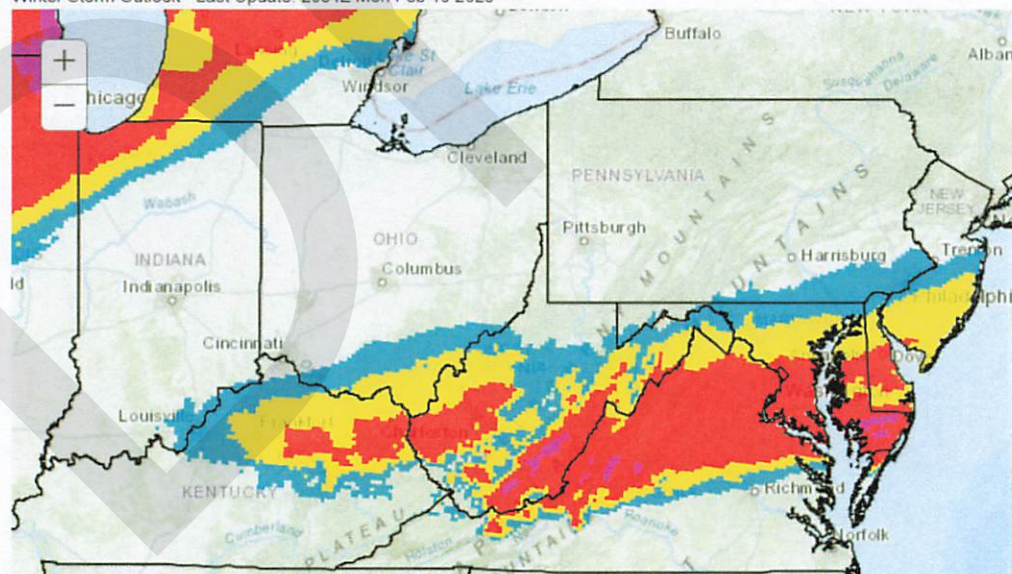
Valid 1 PM Mon Feb 10, 2025 through 7 AM Thu Feb 13, 2025

Weather Forecast Office  
Baltimore/Washington

Issued Feb 10, 2025 4:16 PM EST



Winter Storm Outlook - Valid for the 4 Days ending 12Z Fri Feb 14 2025  
Winter Storm Outlook - Last Update: 2051Z Mon Feb 10 2025

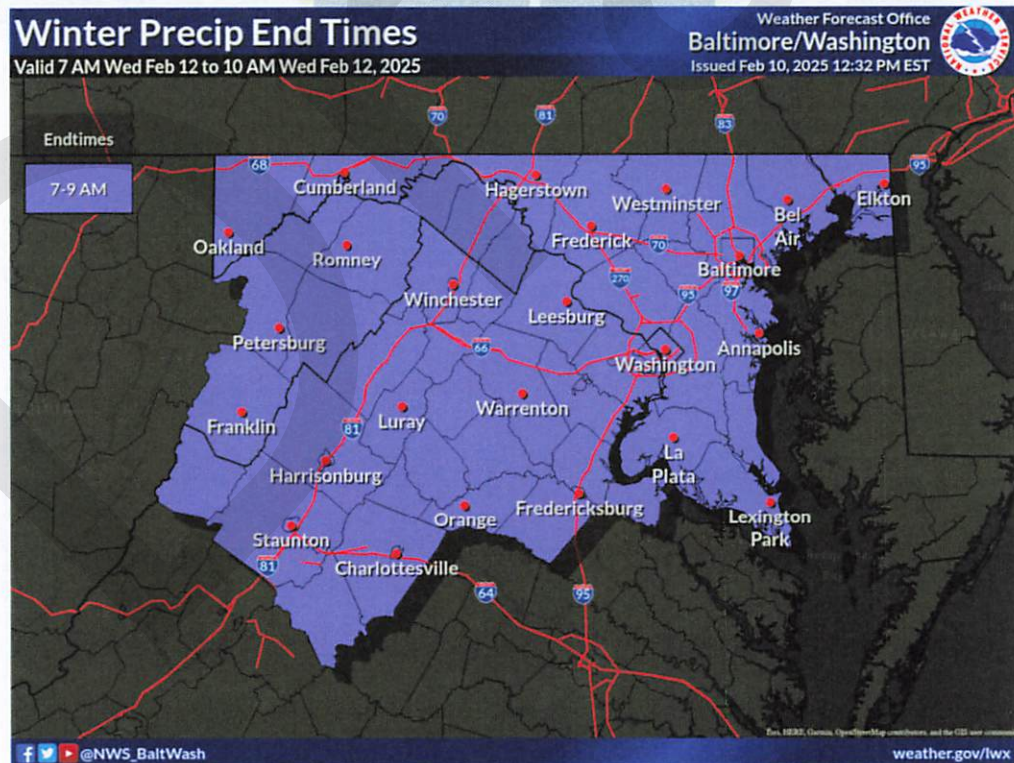
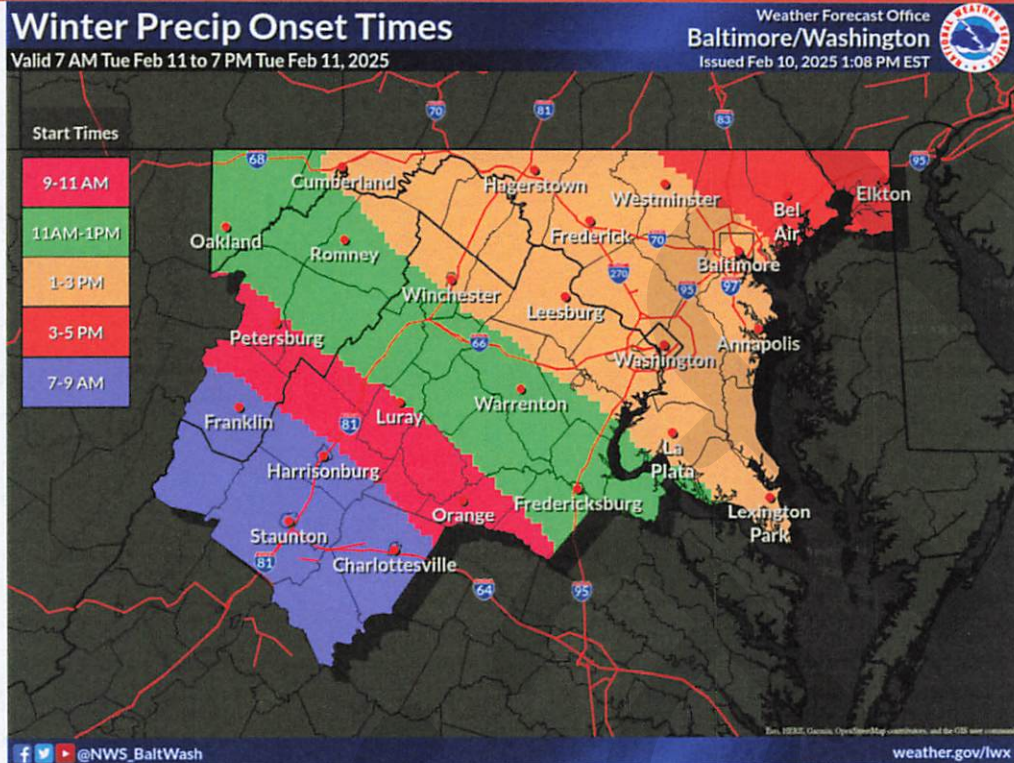




# Town of Warrenton, Virginia

## Office of Emergency Management

### Winter Storm Harlow





# Town of Warrenton, Virginia

## Office of Emergency Management

### Winter Storm Harlow

#### Hazardous Weather Conditions

- [Winter Storm Warning in effect from February 11, 11:00 AM EST until February 12, 07:00 AM EST](#)
- [Hazardous Weather Outlook](#)

Current conditions at

#### Warrenton-Fauquier Airport (KHWY)

Lat: 38.59°N Lon: 77.72°W Elev: 302ft



Fair  
**30°F**  
-1°C

Humidity 65%  
Wind Speed NE 5 mph  
Barometer 30.43 in  
Dewpoint 20°F (-7°C)  
Visibility 10.00 mi  
Wind Chill 25°F (-4°C)  
Last update 11 Feb 6:35 AM EST

More Information:

[Local Forecast Office](#)  
[More Local Wx](#)  
[3 Day History](#)  
[Hourly Weather Forecast](#)

#### Extended Forecast for Warrenton VA

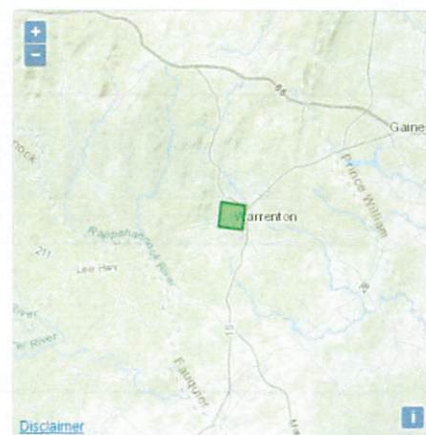
[Click here for hazard details and duration](#)

Winter Storm Warning		Wednesday	Wednesday Night	Thursday	Thursday Night	Friday	Friday Night	Saturday
Today	Tonight							
50% → 100%	100% → 90%	70%	100%					30% → 80%
High: 34 °F	Low: 28 °F	High: 34 °F	Low: 32 °F	High: 50 °F	Low: 26 °F	High: 40 °F	Low: 25 °F	High: 44 °F
Chance Snow then Snow	Snow then Wintry Mix	Winty Mix, Likely	Rain	Partly Sunny	Partly Cloudy	Sunny	Mostly Cloudy	Chance Rain/Snow then Rain/Snow

#### Detailed Forecast

Today	Snow, mainly after 1pm. High near 34. Calm wind becoming south around 6 mph in the afternoon. Chance of precipitation is 100%. Total daytime snow accumulation of 2 to 4 inches possible.
Tonight	Snow before 4am, then a slight chance of snow and freezing rain. Low around 28. Light and variable wind. Chance of precipitation is 100%. Little or no ice accumulation expected. New snow accumulation of 2 to 4 inches possible.
Wednesday	Snow, freezing rain, and sleet likely before 1pm, then rain and sleet likely between 1pm and 4pm, then rain likely after 4pm. Cloudy, with a high near 34. East wind 3 to 5 mph. Chance of precipitation is 70%. Little or no ice accumulation expected. New snow and sleet accumulation of less than a half inch possible.
Wednesday Night	Rain. Low around 32. Light and variable wind. Chance of precipitation is 100%. New precipitation amounts between a quarter and half of an inch possible.
Thursday	Partly sunny, with a high near 50. South wind 6 to 9 mph becoming west in the afternoon. Winds could gust as high as 20 mph.
Thursday Night	Partly cloudy, with a low around 26.
Friday	Sunny, with a high near 40.
Friday Night	Mostly cloudy, with a low around 25.
Saturday	A chance of rain and snow before 1pm, then rain. High near 44. Chance of precipitation is 80%.
Saturday Night	Rain. Low around 39. Chance of precipitation is 100%.
Sunday	Rain. High near 55. Chance of precipitation is 90%.
Sunday Night	Partly cloudy, with a low around 22.
Washington's Birthday	Mostly sunny, with a high near 36.

Topographic  
[Click Map For Forecast](#)



[Disclaimer](#)

Forecast Area

#### ABOUT THIS FORECAST

Point Forecast: Warrenton VA  
38.72°N 77.8°W (Elev. 600 ft)

Last Update: 6:30 AM EST Feb 11, 2016



# Town of Warrenton, Virginia

## Office of Emergency Management

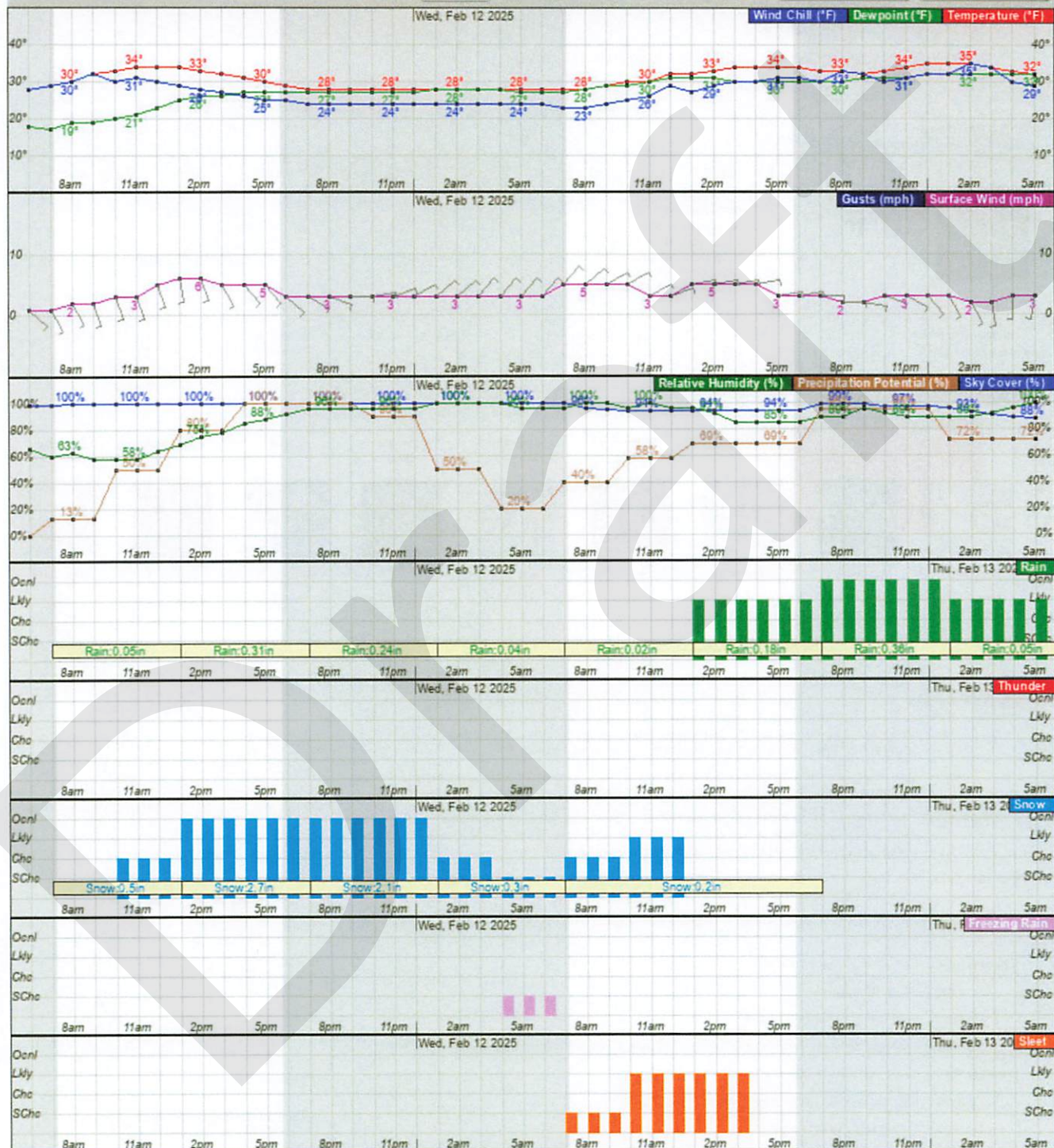
### Winter Storm Harlow

48-Hour Period Starting: 6am Tue, Feb 11 2025

Submit

Back 2 Days

Forward 2 Days





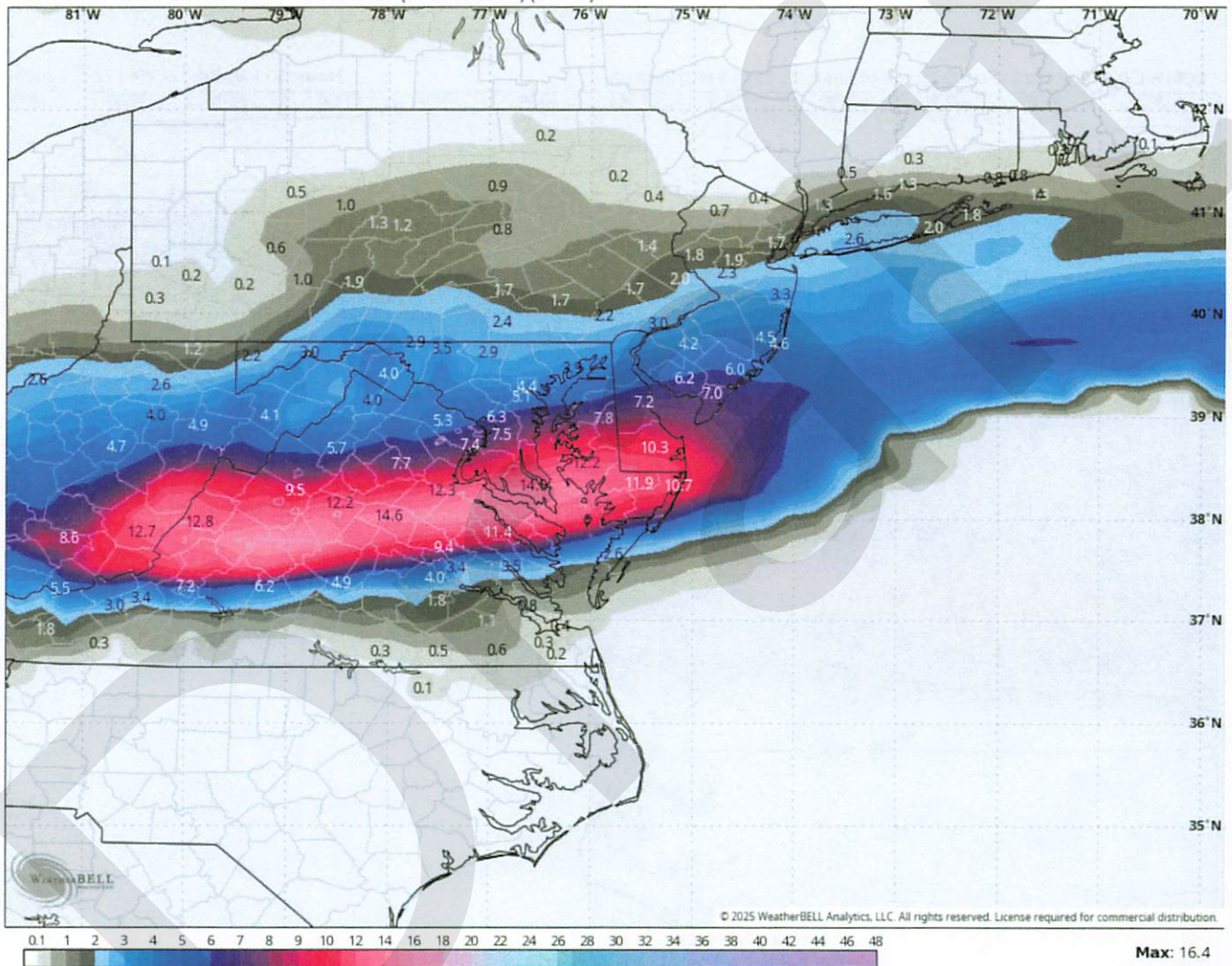
# Town of Warrenton, Virginia

## Office of Emergency Management

### Winter Storm Harlow

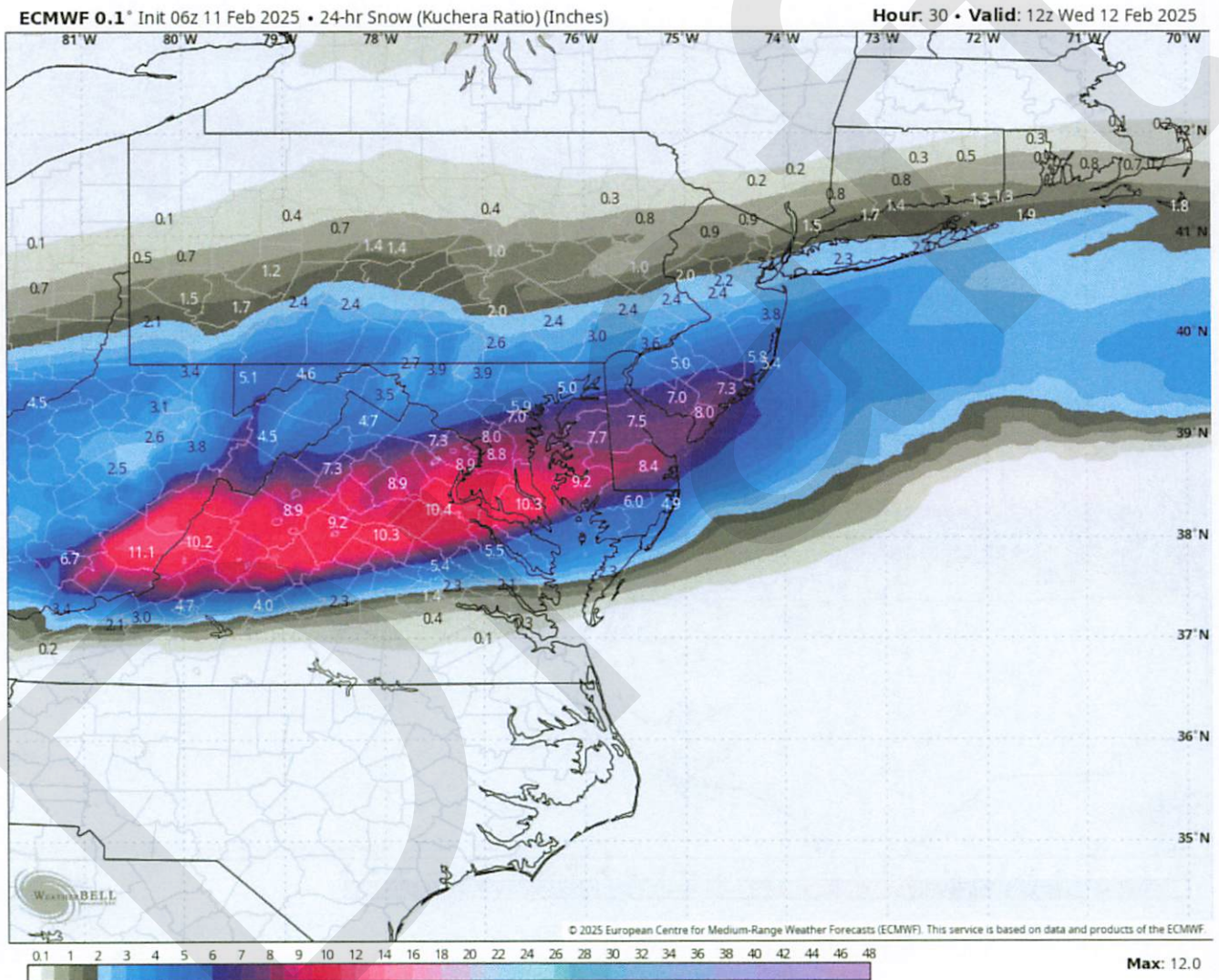
GFS 0.25° Init 06z 11 Feb 2025 • 24-hr Snow (Kuchera Ratio) (Inches)

Hour: 30 • Valid: 12z Wed 12 Feb 2025





# Town of Warrenton, Virginia Office of Emergency Management Winter Storm Harlow

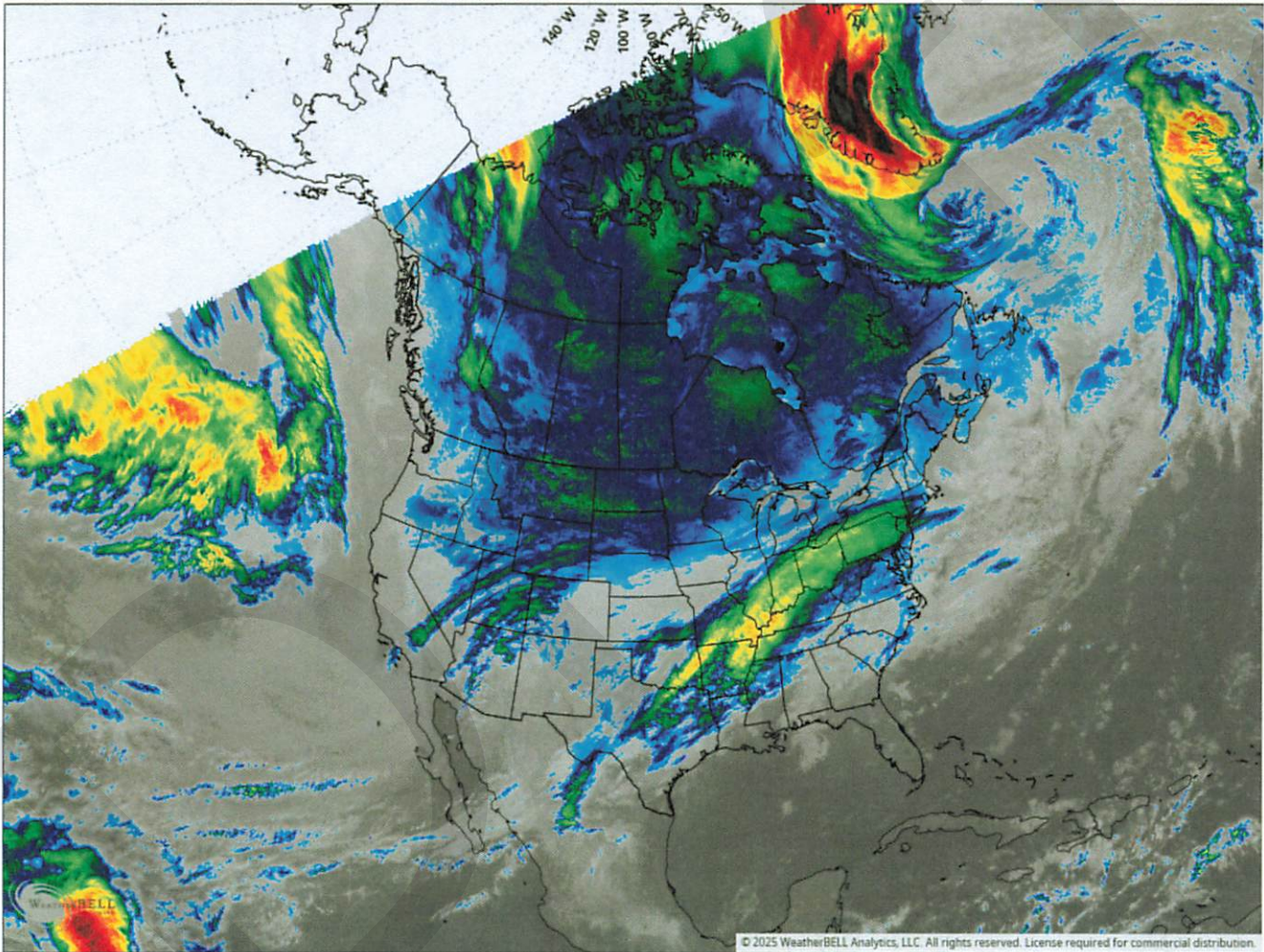




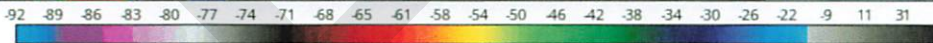
# Town of Warrenton, Virginia Office of Emergency Management Winter Storm Harlow

GOES – East [FULLDISK] 0.04° • GOES ABI Ch 13 (Infrared Clean Window) (°C)

Valid: 1159z Tue 11 Feb 2025



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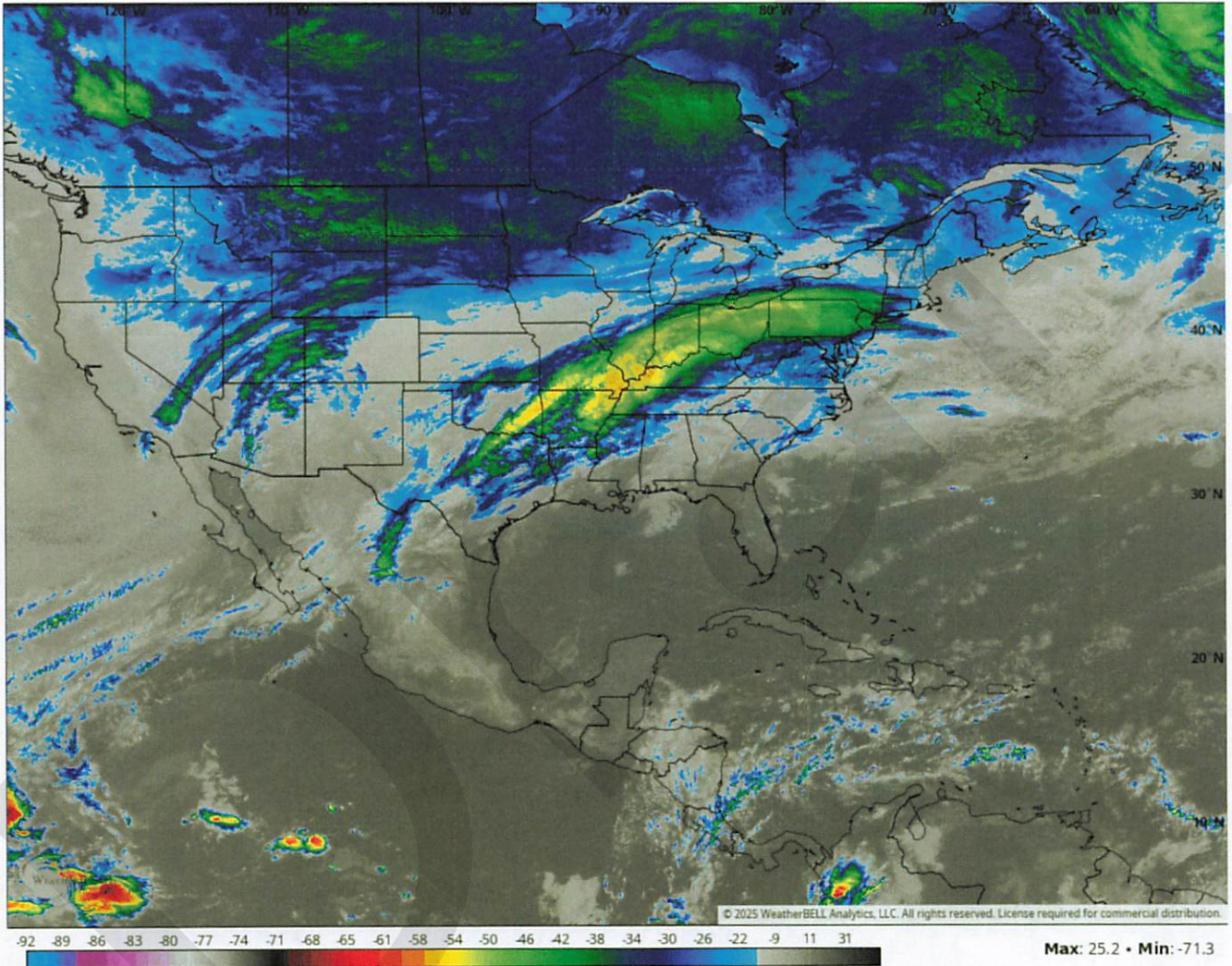
Max: 24.4 • Min: -74.2



# Town of Warrenton, Virginia Office of Emergency Management Winter Storm Harlow

GOES – East [FULLDISK] 0.04° • GOES ABI Ch 13 (Infrared Clean Window) (°C)

Valid: 1159z Tue 11 Feb 2025





# Town of Warrenton, Virginia

## Office of Emergency Management

### Winter Storm Harlow

#### Winter Storm Warning

URGENT - WINTER WEATHER MESSAGE

National Weather Service Baltimore MD/Washington DC

429 AM EST Tue Feb 11 2025

VAZ027-029-030-040-051-501-502-WVZ055-502-112000-

/O.CON.KLWX.WS.W.0006.250211T1600Z-250212T1200Z/

Shenandoah-Page-Warren-Rappahannock-Culpeper-Northern Fauquier-  
Southern Fauquier-Hardy-Eastern Grant-

429 AM EST Tue Feb 11 2025

...WINTER STORM WARNING REMAINS IN EFFECT FROM 11 AM THIS MORNING TO  
7 AM EST WEDNESDAY...

- \* WHAT...Heavy mixed precipitation expected. Total snow accumulations between 3 and 6 inches and ice accumulations around a light glaze.
- \* WHERE...Portions of northern and northwest Virginia and eastern West Virginia.
- \* WHEN...From 11 AM this morning to 7 AM EST Wednesday.
- \* IMPACTS...Travel could be very difficult. The hazardous conditions could impact the Tuesday evening and Wednesday morning commutes. Roads, and especially bridges and overpasses, will likely become slick and hazardous.
- \* ADDITIONAL DETAILS...Snow will overspread the area late this morning into this afternoon, with the steadiest snow expected late this afternoon and evening. Snowfall rates of up to 1 inch per hour and visibility below one half mile are possible this afternoon and evening. A light wintry mix may continue into Wednesday.

#### PRECAUTIONARY/PREPAREDNESS ACTIONS...

If you must travel, keep an extra flashlight, food, and water in your vehicle in case of an emergency. The latest road conditions for the state you are calling from can be obtained by calling 5 1 1.

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# Town of Warrenton, Virginia

## Office of Emergency Management

### Winter Storm Harlow



#### TOWN OF WARRENTON

Office of Emergency Management

18 Court Street  
Warrenton, Virginia 20186  
<http://www.warrentonva.gov>  
TELEPHONE (540) 680-9538  
FAX (540) 349-2414

### Snow Emergency Route Activation Order

Issued: Monday, February 10th, at 8:00 AM

Effective: Tuesday, February 11th, To Begin at 12:00 PM

The National Weather Service has issued a winter weather outlook regarding the accumulating snow potential across the area from Tuesday, February 11<sup>th</sup> through Wednesday, February 12<sup>th</sup>. The forecasted impact on the area is projected to be 5+ inches of heavy snow.

Pursuant to the provisions of Chapter 10, Article VI of the Town of Warrenton Code of Ordinances (specifically Sections 10-62 through 10-64), the Snow Emergency Routes are hereby declared to be activated on February 11th, at 12:00 PM. This order shall remain in effect for a duration of 48 Hours or until revoked. This order activates all designated Snow Emergency Routes within the Town of Warrenton.

#### Parking Restrictions

- Parking is strictly prohibited on all designated Snow Emergency Routes.
- Vehicles parked on Snow Emergency Routes during this Snow Emergency may be ticketed and towed at the owner's expense.

#### Designated Snow Emergency Routes

Alexandria Pike	East Shirley Ave.	Main Street
Blackwell Road	Falmouth Street	Waterloo Street
Broadview Avenue	Frost Avenue	West Shirley Ave.
Culpeper Street	Lee Highway	Winchester Street

Please comply with these parking restrictions to allow for efficient snow removal operations and ensure the safety of all residents.

For updates on the Snow Event, please visit the Town of Warrenton website at <https://www.warrentonva.gov> or contact the Emergency Management hotline at (540) 215-0054

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Frank Cassidy  
Town Manager



# Town of Warrenton, Virginia

## Office of Emergency Management

### Winter Storm Harlow

For Immediate Release: February 10, 2025

Contacts: Office of the Governor: Christian Martinez, [Christian.Martinez@governor.virginia.gov](mailto:Christian.Martinez@governor.virginia.gov)



## Governor Glenn Youngkin Declares a State of Emergency and Urges Virginians to Prepare in Advance of the Winter Weather

**RICHMOND, VA** - Governor Glenn Youngkin today declared a state of emergency in advance of the impending winter weather. He is urging all Virginians to take preparatory actions and heed the warnings from their local and state officials.

"With another round of winter weather across the state this week forecasted to bring heavy snow and ice, I am declaring a state of emergency so we can move resources around the state," said **Governor Glenn Youngkin**. "I urge all Virginians to monitor your local forecast and to prepare for possible impacts to roadways and infrastructure beginning overnight Monday throughout Tuesday."

The National Weather Service forecasts are predicting areas of accumulating snow, freezing rain, ice, and excessive rainfall that could cause flooding, power outages, and hazardous travel conditions. To coordinate the state's response activities, the Virginia Emergency Support Team will be activated.

If having to travel during the storm, drivers are reminded to do the following:

- **Use headlights.** Increasing your visibility helps you to avoid slick and dangerous spots on the road, as well as helps other drivers see you better.
- **Slow your speed.** Though state police works closely with the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) to identify problem areas on Virginia's highways during a winter storm, drivers still must drive for conditions. Slowing your speed gives you more time to safely react and avoid a crash. Drive your vehicle based on your ability to properly maintain control of your vehicle.
- **Don't tailgate.** You need increased stopping distance on slick road surfaces. Give yourself more space between vehicles traveling ahead of you to avoid rear end collisions.
- **Buckle Up.** Most crashes that occur during winter weather are caused by vehicles sliding into guardrails, off the road or other vehicles. Wearing your seat belt protects you from being thrown around the inside of your vehicle and suffering serious injury in a crash.
- **Check Your Vehicle.** Make sure your vehicle is in good working order for the conditions. Fill up the tank in advance. Check windshield wipers, windshield wiper fluid, tire tread, battery life, etc.
- **Don't leave home** without a window scraper, blanket, bottled water, snack, cell phone charger and flashlight.



# Town of Warrenton, Virginia

## Office of Emergency Management

### Winter Storm Harlow



**Frank Cassidy**  
TOWN MANAGER  
T (540) 347-1101  
fcassidy@warrentonva.gov

**TOWN COUNCIL**  
H.E. Carter Nevill, Mayor  
Paul W. Mooney  
David A. McGuire  
Roy Francis  
William T. Semple II  
Larry Kovalich  
Mishele O'Halloran  
Eric F. Gagnon

#### DECLARATION OF LOCAL EMERGENCY FOR THE TOWN OF WARRENTON, VA

**WHEREAS**, on February 10<sup>th</sup> 2025, Governor Glenn Youngkin declared a state of emergency in the Commonwealth of Virginia based on National Weather Service forecasts indicating a severe winter weather threat with snow accumulations of 6 - 10 inches along with sleet, ice, freezing rain, and temperatures below freezing for several days that could cause transportation difficulties and power outages; and

**WHEREAS**, the National Weather Service has issued a Winter Weather Warning beginning 11:00 AM Tuesday, February 11, 2025, for the Town of Warrenton, forecasting 6 - 10 inches of heavy snowfall, sleet, and ice accumulation; and

**WHEREAS**, I, Frank Cassidy, as Town Manager for the Town of Warrenton, find that the imminent threat of severe winter weather and the potential for loss or interruption of vital Town services, public safety, water, sewer, and transportation, posed by this severe snow storm, constitutes a situation of sufficient severity and magnitude to warrant coordinated local government action to prevent or alleviate any potential damage, loss, hardship, or suffering; and

**WHEREAS**, Chapter 20 of the Town of Warrenton Code of Ordinances addresses emergency management and disaster preparedness, specifically including Sec. 20-5 regarding the declaration of emergencies; and

**NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY PROCLAIMED** on this 11<sup>th</sup> day of February 2025, effective 11:00 AM that an emergency does now exist throughout the Town of Warrenton, Virginia, and acting as Director of Emergency Management, I, Frank Cassidy exercise the authority given to me under Code of Virginia § 44-146.21, and the Town of Warrenton Code of Ordinances, Chapter 20, Section 5 to declare a local state of emergency that shall remain in effect until rescinded by a subsequent order; and

**BE IT YET FURTHER PROCLAIMED** that I shall present a resolution ratifying said declaration of local emergency at the next regular meeting of the Town of Warrenton Town Council on February 11<sup>th</sup> 2025, pursuant to Code of Virginia § 44-146.21, and the Town of Warrenton Code of Ordinances, Chapter 20, Section 5.

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, I have here unto set my hand and caused the seal of the Town of Warrenton to be affixed this 11<sup>th</sup> day of February 2025.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Frank Cassidy  
Town Manager

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

# Town of Warrenton, Virginia Office of Emergency Management Winter Storm Harlow

## VDOT News Release



## NEWS RELEASE

VDOT.Virginia.gov

RELEASE: IMMEDIATE  
CONTACT: Lou Hatter  
540-717-2890 (cell)  
[Lou.Hatter@VDOT.Virginia.gov](mailto:Lou.Hatter@VDOT.Virginia.gov)

Feb. 10, 2025  
CULP 2025-022

Sharon Ketcham  
540-829-7370 (office), 540-717-8376 (cell)  
[Sharon.Ketcham@VDOT.Virginia.gov](mailto:Sharon.Ketcham@VDOT.Virginia.gov)

### WINTER STORM BRINGING SNOW AND ICE TO CENTRAL VIRGINIA

*Plan travel around the storm and stay off the roads during and after the snowfall*

CULPEPER — Snow and ice are forecast to move into the Culpeper District beginning Tuesday morning and stretching into Wednesday afternoon. The National Weather Service issued a [Winter Storm Warning](#) today for much of the Piedmont region through Wednesday afternoon.

The storm is expected to bring 7 to 9 inches of snow, sleet, and freezing rain to the region making for hazardous driving conditions. VDOT crews are brining Interstate 64 and Interstate 66 today and are staging crews across the area to work around the clock in 12-hour shifts. Drivers should be cautious around heavy equipment pretreating the roadways and allow plenty of room for them to work.

Make your final preparations today and plan travel around the storm. Once the snow starts falling, stay off the road to allow our crews to push snow and treat roadways as needed to make them passable.

#### **Safety and Travel Resources**

When winter weather arrives, residents and motorists should plan travel ahead of time, check road conditions, [prepare an emergency car kit](#), follow forecasts and announcements and limit travel based on conditions.

Prior to travel, motorists should visit [511.vdot.virginia.gov](http://511.vdot.virginia.gov), call 511 or check the 511 Virginia



# Town of Warrenton, Virginia

## Office of Emergency Management

### Winter Storm Harlow

## Dominion Power Update

Good evening:

As we look to the next few days, we've been advised by our weather team that snow will advance over our Virginia service territory between 9:00am and 2:00pm Tuesday, with most areas seeing snow by afternoon. As is consistent with our planning, we've increased our outage threat level to significant for portions of Dominion Energy's service territory that may lead to a multi-day winter storm restoration event.

One of our greatest concerns is heavy wet snow that could occur tomorrow afternoon and into evening while surface temperatures remain 33-35°. With little wind expected 3+ inches of this snow could bring areas of significant service interruptions. The outage window looks most likely after 4:00pm Tuesday afternoon and lasting through the night.

We have spent the last several days stockpiling equipment and supplies and mobilizing our crews in preparation for the storm. We're deploying hundreds of crews and bucket trucks to field offices throughout the day, and we're prepared to bring on additional crews as needed. We will work as safely and quickly as possible to restore our customers' power.

The Dominion Energy app is the easiest way to report outages and track restoration. If you lose power, there are three easy ways to report your outage and track your restoration time: 1) Dominion Energy mobile apps, [iPhone](#) and [Google](#); 2) [Dominion Energy website](#); or 3) Call 866-DOM-HELP (866-366-4357).

As always, we are reminding our customers to stay away from downed poles and power lines. If you see a downed pole or wire, please report it by calling 866-DOM-HELP and stay at least 30 feet away. The line could be energized and dangerous.

[Prepare food, water and emergency supplies.](#) Before any storm, it's always good to have bottled water and non-perishable food on hand, as well as emergency supplies such as flashlights, batteries, first aid kits and medications. Fully charge your phone, computer and other electronic devices before the storm arrives. Consider purchasing portable batteries to extend the life of your devices.

If you need anything during this event, please do not hesitate to let me know. Please stay safe.

Jeanne

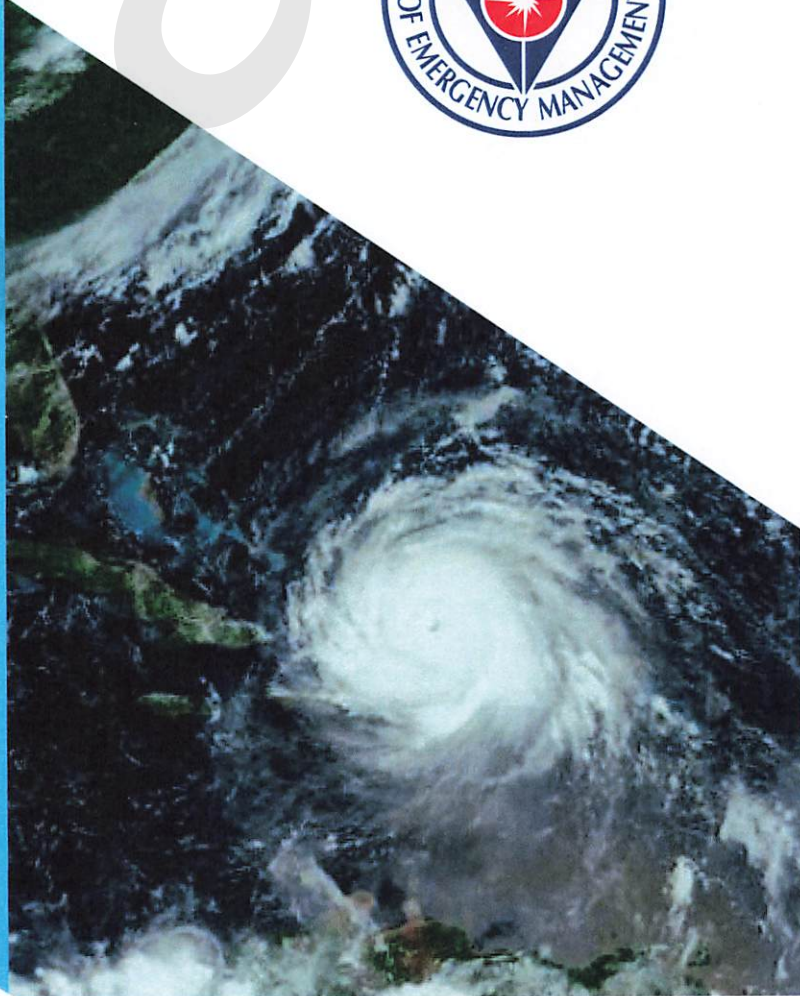
Jeanne Underwood, LPW '18  
External Affairs Representative – Piedmont, Virginia Region  
571-926-4050 (mobile)





# **LOCAL GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS' GUIDE**

*to Emergency Management*





*The Virginia Department of Emergency Management (VDEM) developed this guide as a resource for local government officials to use before, during, and after a natural or human-made disaster. VDEM is the lead state agency charged with coordinating disaster prevention, protection, mitigation, response, and recovery efforts across the Commonwealth. We stand ready to assist wherever and whenever needed.*

This guide will introduce you to local emergency management concepts, and will outline your responsibilities and those of your local emergency manager. Creating a relationship with your local emergency manager is the first – and the most important – step in the emergency management process.

As a local government official, how your locality responds to a disaster will influence how citizens, government, the private sector, volunteer organizations, and the media perceive, respond to, and recover from the event.

**Some of the responsibilities of your local emergency management agency include:**

- » identifying hazards and evaluating risk;
- » developing emergency operations plans;
- » testing emergency operations plans through training and exercises;
- » connecting representatives from internal and external agencies;
- » building relationships with nearby localities;
- » communicating critical information to the public;
- » coordinating all local resources before, during, and after an event;
- » working with your locality's agencies to establish shelters;
- » knowing your locality's VDEM regional contact, and
- » managing your local emergency operations center.

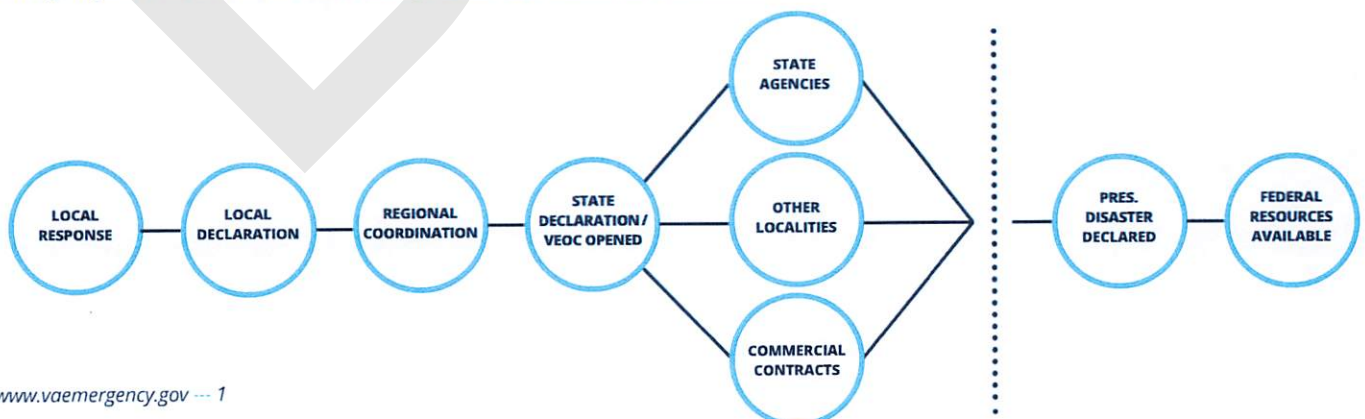


## Understanding the Disaster Process

The management of all emergencies and disasters starts at the local level, which is why your role is so important. If your locality does not already have mutual aid agreements with other localities, we highly encourage you to begin that process, since those localities may often be your first resource before, during, or after a disaster.

When local resources become overwhelmed by an incident, including the resources of those localities with which you have mutual aid agreements, become overwhelmed by an incident, your local emergency manager will contact your respective VDEM Chief Regional Coordinator for further assistance. From there, VDEM regional staff will work with VDEM headquarters, the Virginia Emergency Operations Center (VEOC), other localities, and other state agencies to attempt to fill your resource requests. The state will provide commercial contract information to the locality if necessary.

Federal resources are available only if the President declares a federal disaster, which may happen days or weeks after the emergency. The basic federal declaration process overview is diagramed below.





# FIVE OVERLAPPING MISSION AREAS OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

*VDEM works with local, state and federal entities and volunteer organizations to provide resources and expertise through the following five mission areas of emergency management.*

## 1&2 Prevention & Protection

Prevention and protection often overlap. They involve the capabilities needed to avoid, prevent or stop a natural or human-made disaster. Capabilities include planning, public information and warning, risk management, operational coordination, intelligence gathering, and information sharing.

**As a local government official, there are several important steps you can take to prepare yourself and your community for emergencies and disasters, such as:**

- » Understanding the National Incident Management System (NIMS). Localities are not eligible for federal funds if they do not meet specific state and federal requirements, such as NIMS compliance. The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) created NIMS to provide a comprehensive and consistent approach to incident management.
- » Participating in NIMS classroom training from VDEM, including ICS-402: ICS Overview for Executive and Senior Officials, and IS-908: Emergency Management for Senior Officials.
- » Getting involved with your local emergency operations plan. The Code of Virginia requires each jurisdiction to maintain and keep current an emergency operations plan that should be revisited and exercised regularly.

### **Code of Virginia Related to Prevention & Protection**

**§ 44-146-19 P. 25** --- (D) "The director ... may, in collaboration with (i) other public and private agencies within the Commonwealth or (ii) other state or localities within other states, develop mutual aid arrangements for reciprocal assistance in case of a disaster too great to be dealt with [alone]. Such arrangements should be consistent with state plans and programs, and it shall be the duty of each local organization for emergency management to render assistance in accordance with the provisions of such mutual aid arrangements."

(E) "Each local and interjurisdictional agency shall prepare and keep current a local or interjurisdictional emergency operations plan for its area. The plan shall include, but not be limited to, responsibilities of all local agencies and shall establish a chain of command ... "

"... Each political subdivision having a nuclear power station or other nuclear facility within 10 miles of its boundaries shall, if so directed by the Department of Emergency Management, prepare and keep current an appropriate emergency plan for its area for response to nuclear accidents at such station or facility."

## 3 Mitigation

Mitigation involves the capabilities necessary to reduce the loss of life and property by lessening the impact of disasters. Capabilities are similar to prevention and protection and include planning, public information and warning, operational coordination, community resilience, long-term vulnerability reduction, risk and disaster resilience assessment, and threat and hazard identification.

As a local government official, you should be aware of the mitigation issues in your community. Learn about the high-risk areas, the existing or potential mitigation projects, and how they are funded.

## 4 Response

During a disaster, when your locality is about to be overwhelmed, you should consider declaring a local emergency, which gives your emergency manager and first responders more tools and resources to manage the event. In addition, the Governor may declare a state of emergency to activate additional state agency assistance. In some cases, the Governor may make an emergency declaration prior to a disaster, such as a hurricane, which allows the Governor to pre-deploy resources. A Governor's declaration of emergency is required in order to pursue a federal disaster declaration, which opens up federal financial assistance and resources.

### **Code of Virginia Related to Response § 44-146-21 P. 27** ---

(c1) "Whenever a local emergency has been declared, the director of emergency management ... may control, restrict, allocate or regulate the use, sale, production and distribution of food, fuel, clothing and other commodities, materials, goods, services and resource systems which fall only within the boundaries of that jurisdiction and which do not impact systems affecting adjoining or other political subdivisions..."



## 5 Recovery

Recovery involves all of the cleanup, repair, and financial assistance needed to return an area back to pre-disaster conditions. It will take time and a community-wide effort to recover from a disaster. The main priorities following a disaster are:

1. Ensuring life safety;
2. Addressing the needs of critical infrastructure; and
3. Assessing damage.

After initial response efforts, your community must determine the scope and magnitude of damage caused by the event. Depending on the severity of the incident, damage assessments must be submitted to the Virginia Emergency Operations Center within 72 hours, as referenced in the Commonwealth of Virginia Emergency Operations Plan (COVEOP). As a local government official, you should get regular briefings on the extent of damage and the status of the recovery process from your local emergency manager. These briefings will help you answer questions from your constituents and the media, and will help ensure that your locality is meeting the 72-hour reporting deadline.

Given the complexity and corresponding timelines, it is beneficial to establish a long-term recovery plan prior to a disaster. There are many non-profits, faith-based groups, and volunteer organizations such as the Virginia Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster (VOAD) that can assist with recovery efforts. Creating relationships with these groups beforehand can prove helpful when a disaster strikes.

If the damage appears significant, then a team of state and federal personnel may visit the area to perform additional assessments. VDEM's regional staff members will be in the field assisting you and your team with damage assessments, and will help facilitate the interaction with federal agencies.

If the damages appear to meet state and federal criteria, the Governor may request a federal declaration. Only the President of the United States has the authority to approve the request, and an approval is not automatic.

A federal declaration will identify localities eligible to receive federal assistance. There are two main types of federal disaster assistance: public assistance and individual assistance.

### **Public Assistance for state and local governments and certain non-profits**

Public Assistance reimburses local and state governments and certain private non-profits for the expenses involved in response and recovery efforts.

Public Assistance involves federal reimbursement with a percentage matched by state and local funds; the match

proportion takes the scale of the disaster and the community stress index into consideration. In Virginia, state and local governments will combine funds to match 25 percent of the federal reimbursement amount. How much the local government will contribute depends on its fiscal position.

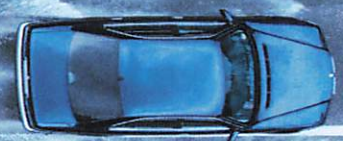
To be eligible, projects must (1) be the result of the disaster, (2) be located within the designated disaster area, and (3) be the legal responsibility of the applicant. Projects that may be reimbursed include:

- » Debris removal from public roads and rights-of-way and from private property when determined to be in the public interest. Encourage your locality to develop a debris removal plan in advance of an emergency. Note: debris removal from private property is the property owner's responsibility, unless the debris poses a hazard to the community at large.
- » Localities are encouraged to create a FEMA-approved debris management plan. Having an approved plan increases the likelihood of collecting a greater federal cost share for debris removal following a federally-declared disaster. Localities should contact their VDEM Chief Regional Coordinator for further information on establishing a FEMA-approved debris management plan.
- » Emergency protective measures, including search and rescue, hazard warnings, and unsafe structure demolition. Proactive zoning and ordinance issues can play pivotal roles in the success of recovery and rebuilding efforts.
- » Public infrastructure repair, including roads, bridges, water control facilities and public utility distribution systems.

**Individual Assistance for citizens and businesses** — By law, federal assistance to individuals cannot duplicate any coverage provided by private insurance. For those without insurance, there are two primary routes for assistance: low-interest loans and "individual assistance." Funding for individual assistance projects must also be approved by the President of the United States, but historically is reserved for the most devastating of incidents. Therefore, the majority of assistance to individuals comes through low-interest loans from the Small Business Administration (SBA).

There are other federal assistance programs that may be activated subsequent to an event, and VDEM can help provide information when those become available.

If individual assistance is available, VDEM will work with your locality and will help coordinate federal resources to ensure the timely and accurate communication of information.





## Virginia Emergency Laws

There are several statutes in the *Code of Virginia* that pertain to emergency management. The most relevant are located in Title 44 starting at § 44-146.13. This section is known as the Emergency Services and Disaster Laws, and the two following subsections are critical for local government officials:

**Authority §44-146.19** — (A) “Each political subdivision in the Commonwealth shall be within the jurisdiction of and served by the Virginia Department of Emergency Management and be responsible for local disaster mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery. Each political subdivision shall maintain in accordance with state disaster preparedness plans and programs an agency of emergency management which, except as otherwise provided under this chapter, has jurisdiction over and services the entire political subdivision.”

**Declaration of local emergency §44-146.21** — (A) “A local emergency may be declared by the local director of emergency management with the consent of the governing body of the political subdivision. In the event the governing body cannot convene due to the disaster or other exigent circumstances, the director, or in his absence, the deputy director, or in the absence of both the director and deputy director, any member of the governing body may declare the existence of a local emergency, subject to confirmation by the governing body at its next regularly scheduled meeting or at a special meeting within 45 days of the declaration, whichever occurs first. The governing body, when in its judgment all emergency actions have been taken, shall take appropriate action to end the declared emergency.”



## Public and Media Inquiries

One of your primary responsibilities as a local government official is to help manage public expectation regarding your locality's role during or after a disaster. Your ability to quickly communicate accurate information is essential, and understanding your locality's emergency operations plan will help you answer questions more confidently throughout the process.

What you say to the media or share through social media, can significantly impact the public's perception of your response and recovery efforts, as well as the public's response following a local or state directive. If the Virginia Emergency Operations Center (VEOC) is activated, the Joint Information Center is a good resource for local Public Information Officers (PIOs) and government officials to ensure messaging is unified and consistent across the Commonwealth. You can support response agencies and reassure the public by communicating:

- » Confirmed facts;
- » Actions taken by emergency responders and community leaders;
- » How the public can help; and
- » What to expect next (hours, days, weeks).

## Citizen Preparedness

Emergency officials will respond quickly after a disaster but they cannot reach everyone right away. You should encourage your citizens to be prepared to be self-sufficient for at least 72 hours after a disaster. Pertinent information should be shared via various media platforms to reach the widest possible audience. VDEM produces numerous informational publications that can be found at [VAemergency.gov/threats](http://VAemergency.gov/threats). Social media can be extremely useful before, during, and after a disaster. Also, please encourage your citizens to sign up for your local mass notification system such as Reverse 911 and CodeRED.

**For more information about how your citizens can prepare, visit:** [VAemergency.gov](http://VAemergency.gov) [f](#) [VAemergency](#) [t](#) [@VDEM](#)





The Town of Warrenton  
P.O. Box 341  
Warrenton, VA 20188  
P (540) 347-1101  
F (540) 349-2414

## **February 11th, 2025, Regular Town Council Meeting Minutes**

### **Attachment 2: Signed legislation**

**A PROCLAMATION RECOGNIZING 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE OPENING OF FAUQUIER HOSPITAL**

**WHEREAS**, The first hospital in Fauquier County, known as Fauquier County Hospital, opened in 1925, at 32 Waterloo Street; and

**WHEREAS**, at the closure of Fauquier County Hospital a second hospital, Physician's Hospital, opened in the same location, under ownership of a group of physicians; and

**WHEREAS**, Physicians' Hospital was closed temporarily in 1954 when a group of citizens led by local businessman and civic leader Tom Frost, raised \$112,000, in part through bake sales, musical programs and picnics, from 1,090 donors to purchase Physicians' Hospital; and

**WHEREAS**, it soon became apparent that the Waterloo Street location could not serve the growing healthcare needs of Fauquier County, hospital and community came together to plan and construct a new facility on what would become known as "Hospital Hill," which opened in 1958, and

**Whereas**, the hospital's staff, including physicians, nurses, administrators, and support personnel, have exemplified professionalism, commitment, and care, often going above and beyond to serve the community; and

**WHEREAS**, Fauquier Hospital has continuously provided high-quality, compassionate care to generations of residents, meeting the diverse healthcare needs of the community; and


**WHEREAS**, Fauquier Health proudly cares for the community and is nationally recognized as a Top General Hospital for quality and patient safety by the Leapfrog Group, is a Certified Primary Stroke Center, a Center of Excellence for Joint Replacement, and an accredited Chest Pain Center, and

**WHEREAS**, as Fauquier Hospital celebrates 100 years of service, it continues to embody its mission of enhancing the health and well-being of the region, while looking ahead to a future of innovation and excellence in healthcare; and

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT PROCLAIMED** that the Mayor of the Town of Warrenton do hereby recognize Fauquier Health as an essential and valued member of our community, honoring a legacy of service and commitment through its 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary; and

**BE IT FURTHER PROCLAIMED**, that the Twenty-Sixth Day of February, Two Thousand and Twenty-Five shall be celebrated as Fauquier Health Day in the Town of Warrenton, Virginia, celebrating outstanding health care and community dedication



  
H. E. Carter Nevill  
Mayor Town of Warrenton