



Pennsylvania
Emergency Management Agency

Pennsylvania
Department of Transportation

Pennsylvania
State Police



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Jan. 23, 2026

MEDIA CONTACTS: Ruth Miller, PEMA, ruthmiller@pa.gov
Myles Snyder, PSP, ra-pspcomm@pa.gov
Alexis Campbell, PennDOT, alecampbel@pa.gov
Marissa Orbanek, PA Turnpike, morbanek@paturndpike.com

Shapiro Administration Encourages Pennsylvanians to be Prepared for Impending Weekend Snowstorm

Vehicle restrictions planned, visit 511PA.com or the 511PA smartphone app for the most up-to-date information on weather impacts and vehicle restrictions.

PEMA recommends avoiding unnecessary travel during the storm, having extra bottled water on hand, charging phones ahead of the weekend, and checking in on elderly neighbors.

Harrisburg, PA – The Shapiro Administration is urging residents and travelers to closely monitor forecasts and prepare for hazardous weather conditions expected across the Commonwealth beginning Saturday night and continuing through Monday morning.

According to the National Weather Service, a winter storm will impact the Commonwealth over the weekend, with significant snowfall expected for much of the state. Additionally, well-below average temperatures are expected during the storm, with impacts from snow and cold likely to linger into early next week.

“The best time to protect yourself and your family is before the snow begins,” said **Randy Padfield, Director of the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency (PEMA)**. “We encourage everyone to check the forecast often, adjust travel plans if needed, and to stock up on basic supplies like food, water, and medications, and make sure phones are charged and emergency kits are ready. Taking these simple steps ahead of time can reduce stress and prevent emergencies once the storm begins.”

Additional preparedness information, including emergency checklists for homes and vehicles, is available on the ReadyPA website.

The **Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PennDOT)** and **Pennsylvania Turnpike (PA Turnpike)** are preparing ahead of the storm and will have crews working around the clock to treat and clear roads as conditions allow. Motorists are strongly encouraged to avoid unnecessary travel during the storm. If travel is unavoidable, drivers should slow down, increase following distance, avoid sudden maneuvers, and allow extra time to reach their destinations.

Last winter in Pennsylvania, preliminary data shows that there were 8,329 crashes, 29 fatalities, and 2,959 injuries on snowy, slushy, or ice-covered roadways. Eleven of the people who died weren't wearing a seat belt, and 17 of the fatalities were in crashes where a driver was going too fast for conditions and drove out of their lane.

Restrictions are planned for certain vehicles during the storm, and will be communicated via variable message boards, the [511PA traveler information website](#) and smartphone apps. Drivers can also [sign up for personalized alerts](#) on the website. Restrictions will be lifted as quickly as possible when conditions permit. Restrictions can be changed based on conditions on the roadways, and reports from first responders, law enforcement and **PennDOT** personnel.

Starting at **midnight on Saturday, January 24**, a Tier 4 vehicle restriction is planned for all Pennsylvania interstates, plus the **PA Turnpike** and its extensions, [along with several other major roadways](#). On roadways with Tier 4 restrictions in place, no commercial vehicles are permitted. Additionally, all school buses, commercial buses, motor coaches, motorcycles, RVs/motorhomes and passenger vehicles (cars, SUVs, pickup trucks, etc.) towing trailers are not permitted on affected roadways while restrictions are in place. For the full list of vehicle restrictions, visit [511PA.com](#).

Travelers are encouraged to check current roadway conditions before leaving by visiting [511PA.com](#), the 511PA mobile app, or calling 5-1-1. These resources provide real-time information on traffic conditions, weather impacts, plow activity, and roadway restrictions across the state.

"Our crews are hard at work preparing for this weekend's storm, and we'll be out in force throughout the event," said **PennDOT Secretary Mike Carroll**. "With the accumulation we're expecting to see across most of the state, it's important to remember that roads will not be completely clear of snow. Please, avoid traveling if you can. If you must venture out, please slow down and allow extra time. You can find the most up-to-date information about travel conditions, plow locations, and vehicle restrictions at [511PA.com](#) or the 511PA app."

"The Pennsylvania Turnpike is always ready to support our customers during winter weather, and this upcoming storm is no exception," said **PA Turnpike CEO Mark Compton**. "Our crews will be working tirelessly, around the clock, to keep the roads as free from snow and ice as possible. Follow the guidelines and be alert for changing road conditions. Your safety and the safety of those working to clear the roads are our top priorities."

“Please exercise patience and caution while driving in winter weather,” said **Lieutenant Colonel George Bivens, Pennsylvania State Police (PSP) Acting Commissioner**.

“Slow down, make sure your windows, roof, and mirrors are completely clear, and stay alert to the actions of other drivers. A few simple precautions can make all the difference in keeping you, your passengers, and everyone around you safe.”

PSP reminds motorists that state law requires drivers to remove snow and ice from their vehicles, including roofs, hoods, and trunks, within 24 hours after a storm if the accumulation could pose a danger to others. It is also illegal to operate a vehicle if snow or ice obstructs the driver’s view through any window. PSP will be actively monitoring road conditions and responding to incidents throughout the storm.

Drivers are also reminded to follow Pennsylvania’s Move Over Law when approaching emergency response areas, including crashes, disabled vehicles, or highway maintenance operations. If unable to safely move into a farther lane, motorists must slow at least 20 mph below the posted speed limit. Headlights are required whenever windshield wipers are in use due to precipitation.

Cold air following the storm may create additional safety risks, including frostbite and hypothermia for those spending extended time outdoors. People are urged to dress in layers, limit time outside when possible, and check on elderly neighbors or those who may need assistance. Don’t overexert yourself when shoveling snow and take frequent breaks.

State agencies will continue to monitor the storm and provide updates as conditions evolve. Residents are encouraged to stay informed through trusted sources and to use caution throughout the weekend.

For more information on safe winter travel, an emergency kit checklist and information on **PennDOT’s** winter operations including a video, visit [PennDOT.pa.gov/winter](https://www.pennDOT.pa.gov/winter). Additional winter driving and other highway safety information is available at [PennDOT.pa.gov/safety](https://www.pennDOT.pa.gov/safety).

Motorists can check conditions on more than 40,000 roadway miles, including color-coded winter conditions on 2,900 miles, by visiting [511PA.com](https://www.511PA.com). 511PA, which is free and available 24 hours a day, provides traffic delay warnings, weather forecasts, traffic speed information, and access to more than 1,200 traffic cameras.

For more information on the **PA Turnpike’s** winter operations, visit [paturnpike.com/news/pa-turnpike-blog](https://www.paturnpike.com/news/pa-turnpike-blog). To report an incident or other emergency on the PA Turnpike, dial *11 via mobile phone. To learn more about PA Turnpike conditions, use 511PA or follow the PA Turnpike on [X](#), [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#).

511PA is also available through a free smartphone application for iPhone and Android devices, by calling 5-1-1, or by [following local alerts on X](#).

Subscribe to statewide **PennDOT** news and traffic alerts or subscribe to news in a [specific county or region](#). Find PennDOT news on [X](#), [Facebook](#), and [Instagram](#). The **PA Turnpike** will provide updates on their social channels, on their roadway and at all service plazas.

#