



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**#12-20**

**OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT ISSUES TRAVEL  
ADVISORY**

**December 26, 2012** — The New York City Office of Emergency Management (OEM) today issued a Travel Advisory for Wednesday evening through the morning rush hour on Thursday, December 27, 2012 due to a mixed forecast of snow with sleet and freezing rain. The National Weather Service forecast snow with light accumulations, rain, strong winds, and minor to moderate coastal flooding of the most low-lying and vulnerable coastal areas.

In preparation for the storm, New York City has taken the following actions:

- The NYC Flash Flood Emergency Plan was activated in preparation for snow, rain, and potential coastal flooding. The NYC Flash Flood Emergency Plan is activated approximately twelve times per year.
- The City's Emergency Operations Center remains open on Wednesday, December 26, 2012.
- The New York City Department of Sanitation issued a "snow alert" for Wednesday, December 26, 2012 starting at 2:00PM.
- The Department of Sanitation has pre-positioned salt spreaders in case they are needed.
- The Department of Environmental Protection has cleared catch basins to help reduce flooding in low lying areas.
- The Department of Transportation has cleared arterial roadways and positioned crews at East River Bridges in case they are needed for de-icing operations.
- The Department of Buildings issued a Weather Advisory urging property owners and contractors to take precautionary steps in preparation for high winds.
- OEM activated the Advance Warning System (AWS) to alert vulnerable New Yorkers about the impending winter weather.

OEM encourages New Yorkers to take the following precautions:

**For Motorists:**

- If you must drive a vehicle, monitor weather and traffic reports for the latest road conditions.
- Use major streets or highways for travel whenever possible as these roadways will be cleared first.
- Drive slowly. Vehicles, including those with 4-wheel drive, take longer to stop on snow and ice than on dry pavement.

- Keep the name and phone number of at least one local towing service in your car in case you break down or become stuck in the snow.
- If you get stuck on the road stay with your car and contact a towing company.

### **For Pedestrians**

- Exercise caution and avoid slippery surfaces.
- Wear layers including a hat, gloves and scarf to stay protected from the cold. And, keep clothes and shoes dry.
- Have heightened awareness of cars, particularly when approaching or crossing intersections.

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