

Winter Weather Storm Scenario

ICS FOR LOCAL PUBLIC HEALTH TRAINING TOOL

It is late in the fall and Minnesota has been experiencing unusually warm wet weather due to the Jet Stream staying up in Canada and warm moist air from the Gulf pushed up north into Minnesota. It rained yesterday evening and all night long across the state. During the night, the Jet Stream shifted south and a severe cold front moved down from Canada causing heavy ice buildup on roadways, trees and power lines. Although it was raining when you drove in this morning, it has turned to sleet and temperatures are dropping fast.

Throughout town, there is heavy ice buildup on trees and power lines. Downed trees, tree limbs and power lines are making many roads impassable. Rural electrical power is disrupted due to towers, poles and lines that are down. Some of the interdependent systems are affected including the 9-1-1 service.

The main highway in your jurisdiction has a number of travelers stranded on highway, ramps and adjacent roads, rest stops, and nearby gas stations and motels.

A snowstorm dumping 8-12" of snow is predicted for the next 48 hours on top of the accumulated ice. Affected area hospitals are seeing increased ED patients--Emergency Medical Services are in high demand.

Local Public Health is having difficulty making their home visits to their clients. Local Senior Dining sites have canceled their lunch program for the day. Several homebound senior citizens have called 9-1-1 worried about getting their meals from the local meals-on-wheels program.

Local Emergency Management has decided to open a shelter for the stranded travelers. The senior high rise in your community is without power. Local Public Health has been asked to help open the shelter and to perform wellness checks on residents of the senior high rise.

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