



**Madison County Government**  
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## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **Winter Blast Emergency Preparations Madison County, NC – January 9, 2025**

In anticipation of pending inclement weather, on January 9, 2025, Madison County Interim Emergency Management Officer, Daniel Porche, hosted a 1:00 PM coordination meeting with Madison County Public Safety Officers, Municipality, Government, and NC Department of Transportation Leadership. During the meeting, Officer Porche discussed that he anticipates based off of current weather models, the Friday afternoon commute will be the most challenging timeframe and recommended citizens not travel during this time unless absolutely necessary.

Through coordination with Madison County School Superintendent, Dr. Will Hoffman, Madison County Government is preparing to operate shelters at the Wellness Center located at Madison County Early College as well as locations at Hot Springs and Mars Hill Elementary Schools if needed, with the Wellness Center serving as the main shelter. County Manager Rod Honeycutt reminded the group of lessons learned from Hurricane Helene stating, "Preparing equipment, staff, and resources before lunch time tomorrow is a priority. If the environment and safety measures necessitate it, we must be prepared to respond." Shelters will open with a County Declaration of Emergency. Initial shelter criteria considerations are a power outage anticipated to last more than twelve hours or motorists stranded for an anticipated eight-hour window.

The County will provide social media, radio, and TV news updates to keep citizens informed of the current weather, roads, and shelter status. For the most recently updated information, please visit the Madison County Emergency Management Facebook page - <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100032893136688>.

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