



Inclement Weather Preparedness

Weather Coverage and Forecasts

Stay informed about the latest storm conditions by following the National Weather Service (NWS). The NWS provides updated forecasts, watches, and warnings for snow, sleet, ice, and other winter hazards affecting Clayton.

Visit their website at www.weather.gov, which offers safety guidance, understanding hazardous weather, and knowing the difference between a watch, warning, and advisory.

Residents can view local forecasts online, sign up for alerts, or listen to local radio and television stations for NWS updates. Staying aware of changing conditions helps you prepare and stay safe during the storm.

Emergencies and Road Safety

The safest choice during ice storms is to stay home. Only travel if absolutely necessary. Traveling on icy roads can put you at risk and place extra strain on emergency personnel, who may be responding to multiple incidents at once.

Residents are asked not to park vehicles along roadways during winter weather. Parked cars can block emergency vehicles and road crews, making it harder to clear and treat roads and creating added hazards for drivers and responders.

If you must travel, drive slowly, increase your following distance, and avoid sudden stops or turns. Always wear your seatbelt and keep your phone charged. If you become stuck or stranded, stay inside your vehicle, call 911, and wait for help. Do not attempt to walk in dangerous conditions unless absolutely necessary.

For emergencies, call 911. Do not report emergencies via email, text, or social media. Calling 911 ensures your request is routed correctly and allows officers to respond safely and quickly.

Heat Source Safety

During power outages, many households use alternative heat sources. Using them safely helps prevent home fires and carbon monoxide exposure.

If you are heating your home:

- Keep all heat sources at least three feet away from anything that can burn, including furniture, curtains, and decorations.
- Turn off space heaters before sleeping or leaving the room.
- Place heaters on flat, stable surfaces.
- Never leave fireplaces unattended.

Never use grills, camp stoves, generators, or outdoor heating equipment indoors or in garages. These devices produce carbon monoxide, which can build up quickly and become dangerous.

Carbon monoxide exposure can cause headache, dizziness, nausea, and confusion. Installing carbon monoxide detectors on every level of your home, testing them regularly, and replacing batteries as needed helps reduce risk.

If you are unsure whether a heat source is safe to use indoors, do not use it. Safety comes first.

Downed Power Line Safety and Outages

Downed or low-hanging power lines are extremely dangerous. Always assume a power line is live and stay at least 30 feet away. Do not attempt to move or touch a downed line and never drive over it.

If you see a downed power line, call the Town's emergency electric line or 911 immediately and warn others to stay clear.

To report power outages or check updates, use the Clayton Outage and Messaging System (COMS) by:

- Texting POWER to [919-553-1530](tel:919-553-1530)
- Visiting townofclaytonnc.org/COMS
- Calling [919-553-1530](tel:919-553-1530) and following the prompts.

During power outages, use flashlights instead of candles whenever possible. If you do use candles, keep them away from anything that can burn and never leave them unattended.

When power is restored, avoid overloading electrical outlets.

Protecting Pipes and Outdoor Water Elements

Freezing temperatures can cause water pipes to burst and damage outdoor water equipment. Residents should insulate exposed pipes, let faucets drip slowly to prevent freezing, and disconnect garden hoses from outdoor spigots.

If pipes do freeze, do not use open flames to thaw them. Use a safe, gradual heat source instead.

Report any leaks, breaks, or water emergencies to the Town's [Water Resources Department](#) immediately.

Supplies to Have on Hand

Winter storms and ice accumulation can cause power outages and limit travel. Having basic supplies ready at home and in your vehicle can help you stay safe.

At Home:

- Drinking water and non-perishable food for several days
- Flashlights and extra batteries
- Battery-powered or hand-crank radio
- Medications and personal care items
- Warm blankets, sleeping bags, and extra clothing
- Phone chargers or battery packs
- Carbon monoxide and smoke detectors with working batteries
- Manual can opener
- Trash bags, paper towels, and hygiene items

In Your Vehicle:

- Full tank of gas
- Jumper cables
- Ice scraper and snow brush
- Blanket or warm clothing
- Flashlight
- Phone charger
- Bottled water and non-perishable snacks
- First aid kit

Preparing ahead reduces stress and helps you focus on staying safe during winter weather.

Shelters and Warming Centers

Shelters and warming centers in Johnston County are coordinated by Johnston County Emergency Management Services, not the Town of Clayton. Residents without safe, reliable heat or shelter should contact Johnston County Emergency Management or monitor county alerts for information about available resources.

For the latest updates on shelters and warming centers during a winter storm, sign up for JoCoAlerts by visiting [Johnstonnc.gov/alerts](https://www.johnstonnc.gov/alerts) or by calling 919-989-5050.

Older Adults and Residents Living with Disabilities

Winter storms can pose extra risks. Residents in this group should have enough medications, medical supplies, and personal care items, and plan for how to stay warm if the power goes out.

Friends, family, and neighbors are encouraged to check in regularly on those who may need extra assistance.

Pet Safety

Keep pets indoors whenever possible. If your pets need to go outside, provide a designated potty area and consider laying down a tarp, plastic sheet, or straw for traction and to keep them out of snow and ice. Limit time outside and bring pets in as soon as possible.

Make sure they have warm bedding, food, and fresh water.

Library: Digital Resources for All Ages

Hocutt-Ellington Memorial Library offers a wide range of digital resources accessible from home. Residents are encouraged to download eBooks, audiobooks, and other materials in advance, so they are available even if power or internet service is interrupted.

Families and children can enjoy storytime eBooks, read-alongs, and interactive learning apps to stay engaged and learn safely indoors.

Visit [claytonlibrarync.org](https://www.claytonlibrarync.org) to access resources for all ages.

Stay Connected to the Latest Updates

The Town of Clayton will share information about winter weather, road conditions, power outages, and community services through official channels. Residents should follow the Town on [social media](#), visit the [Town website](#), or tune into local media reports regularly to receive updates and guidance during the storm.