

How Hillsborough Prepares for Winter Weather and How You Can Too

Below is information on how the Town of Hillsborough prepares for winter weather and how you can too.

In the event of deteriorating weather conditions, the community is advised to stay off roads and town trails. Doing otherwise puts yourself and others at risk and pulls emergency workers away from other duties. If wintry weather occurs, roads may continue to have snow and ice after the event, particularly in shaded areas. To allow plowing, please do not park vehicles on streets.

Town preparations

In advance of predicted winter weather, Hillsborough crews prepare equipment and resources, including:

- Outfitting trucks with plows and tire chains.
- Ensuring vehicles and generators are fully fueled.
- Ensuring any equipment that may be needed is ready to go.

Community preparations

Prepare family and property — The community is encouraged to prepare for winter weather. Basic readiness tips include having adequate supplies of food and water to last several days and putting together a disaster supply kit, including a flashlight, batteries, cash, first aid supplies and copies of critical documents.

As low temperatures can bring the possibility of water line breaks and power outages due to high electrical demand, the town has created documents with tips for personal protection and avoiding frozen pipes. Preparation information is available via:

- [Emergency Information](#) page of the town's website, which includes cold weather resources.
- [Emergency Services](#) section of Orange County's website.
- [Winter Safety](#) section of the National Weather Service website.
- [ReadyNC](#) website.

Stay informed — The community is encouraged to ensure they can stay informed and to share information with neighbors.

Use the Town of Hillsborough's various communication channels:

- Website: www.hillsboroughnc.gov
- Twitter: [@HillsboroughGov](https://twitter.com/HillsboroughGov)
- Facebook: www.facebook.com/hillsboroughgov
- News releases: [Email Subscriptions](#) webpage

Subscribe to the public alert and warning system [OC Alerts](#), which will be used to share any emergency notifications, including the opening of shelters. When selecting notification preferences through OC Alerts, Hillsborough water customers should sign up to receive notifications from the Town of Hillsborough. Note that Orange Water and Sewer Authority provides water service to the Carrboro and Chapel Hill community. OC Alerts is a partnership of the governments in Orange County and OWASA.

Determine service providers — Please note that about 25,000 homes have a Hillsborough mailing address, but only 7,000 are within the town limits. To determine who provides services to your home, check the [Jurisdiction and Service Areas](#) page of the town website.

Safety reminders

- Do not use generators, camp stoves or grills inside homes or in garages attached to buildings due to the risk for carbon monoxide poisoning and fire. These should only be used outdoors, with the exhaust facing away from the home and with placement at least 10 feet away from any opening to a building that could draw air in.
- If using a generator, ensure you are only supplying power to your intended building to avoid dangers to emergency workers, damage to the generator and possible fire.
- Stay away from downed power lines and downed trees, both of which can be hazardous.
- Monitor local radio and television stations for storm and shelter updates.