



MCINCR-MCBQ

Winter Weather

Preparation Guide

Jan 2026

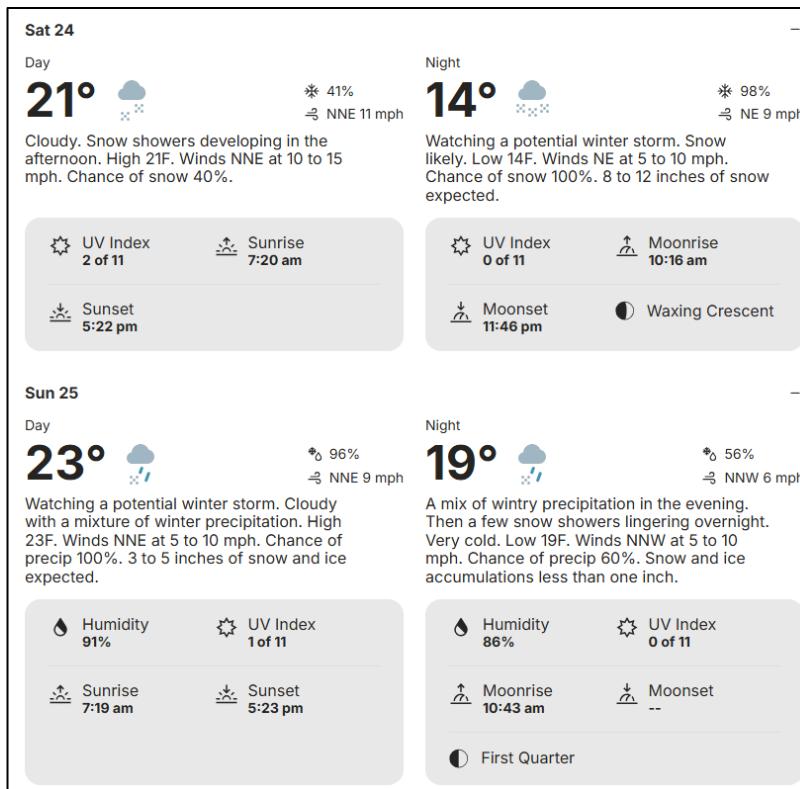
Prepared by the Installation Protection Branch, G-3, MCINCR-MCBQ



Background



- Potential for significant snowfall and frigid temperatures this weekend, 24-25 January 2026.
- Preparing your home, car and family before cold weather and a winter storm arrives is critical. Don't wait until the last second – the shelves will be bare.





Home Preparation



- Check and update your family's emergency supply kit before winter approaches. Include warm clothing and blankets and replace any expired food or medication.
- Heat your home safely: Keep space heaters at least three feet from other objects and plug all heating devices directly into an outlet; never use an extension cord.
- Avoid using candles during power outages, as many home fires in winter are caused by candles. Flashlights are much safer; make sure you have plenty of extra batteries.
- If you have pets, bring them inside.
- Check on your neighbors, especially the elderly, who may need help shoveling or picking up groceries or medication.
- Protect your pipes by insulating them or leaving faucets drip during severe cold.
- If you don't have a snow shovel, get one now. Do not wait until Friday evening to purchase your necessities.



Emergency Kit



Collect these essential supplies for each member of your family. **Plan to live off your kit for at least 3 days:**

- Food that won't spoil and doesn't need electricity to prepare.
- One gallon of water per person, per day for drinking and hygiene.
- A written family emergency plan.
- A battery-powered and/or hand crank radio and a flashlight with extra batteries.
- A portable and/or vehicle charger and cable for your cell phone.
- Medications.
- Distilled water for CPAP.
- Additional recommendations for the kit can be found [here](#).



Travel Preparation



- The safest place during a winter storm is indoors. Try to get where you need to be before the weather gets bad. Most traffic crashes happen within the first two hours after a storm starts.
- If you must drive during a winter storm: Make sure you know the road conditions before you leave.
- Snowplows start on roads that carry the most traffic and then move to smaller roads. Stay off the road to give plows time and space to work.
- If stranded, do not leave your vehicle.
- Go to **[511 Virginia](#)** or dial 511 to get real-time traffic information and road conditions. The Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) also offers real-time snow plowing information at
<https://plows.vdot.virginia.gov/public/map>
- It's also important to keep at least 1/2 a tank of fuel and update your vehicle's emergency kit with warm clothing and blankets in case you are stranded.



Personal Safety



- Protect yourself from frostbite by covering all exposed skin, even if you will be outside for a short period of time.
- Wear several layers of loose-fitting, warm clothing rather than one layer of heavy clothing.
- Never use a generator indoors or within 20 feet of your house.
- Have working smoke and carbon monoxide alarms on every floor.
- If you use your car to stay warm or charge devices, make sure it's outside the garage.
- Never use an oven to produce heat for your home.
- Be safe when using generators and heating devices: Never use a generator, grill, camp stove, or portable propane, fuel oil, or charcoal-burning heater inside your home, garage, or other partially enclosed area. These devices produce carbon monoxide, a colorless, odorless gas that can kill you.



Resource Links



- [Stafford County Emergency Management Winter Weather Preparedness](#)
- [Prince William County Emergency Management Winter Weather Preparedness](#)
- [Spotsylvania County Emergency Management Winter Weather Preparedness](#)
- Sign up for the Quantico Mass Notification System [here](#)