
City of Charlottesville and Albemarle County Declare Local Emergency Ahead of Winter Storm

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January 24, 2026

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CHARLOTTESVILLE, VA – In advance of a significant winter storm expected to impact the region, the City of Charlottesville and Albemarle County have jointly declared a local emergency for their respective jurisdictions to ensure all available resources are activated and coordinated to protect public safety.

The declarations allow both localities to respond quickly to hazardous conditions, support emergency operations, and maintain continuity of essential services as the storm moves into the area.

Emergency management officials from the City and County are working closely together through coordinated planning, shared situational awareness, and ongoing communication. The jurisdictions' communications teams are also collaborating to ensure residents receive clear, timely, and consistent information before, during, and after the storm.

“Severe weather does not stop at jurisdictional boundaries,” said Sam Sanders, City Manager for the City of Charlottesville. “This declaration ensures we are aligned, prepared, and communicating clearly with the public as conditions worsen.”

“Our emergency management teams are working hand in hand to monitor conditions and support response efforts across the region,” said Jeff Richardson, County Executive for Albemarle County. “This collaboration strengthens our ability to keep residents safe and informed.”

Safety Reminders

Significant travel impacts are anticipated, particularly due to ice accumulations. Residents are urged to:

- Avoid unnecessary travel and stay off the roads if possible
- Allow extra time and distance if travel is unavoidable
- Dress warmly and limit time outdoors
- Check on neighbors, especially older adults and those with limited mobility

In the event of a power outage, intersections with non-functioning traffic signals should be treated as four-way stops.

Shelter and Warming Options

Community partners have expanded operations to support individuals in need of shelter during the storm. Residents may also contact **Virginia 211** by dialing **2-1-1** or **1-800-230-6977** for community resources and assistance.

Clemons Library on the University of Virginia Grounds

Hours:

- Saturday: 9:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m.
- Sunday: 12:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m.
- Monday: 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 a.m.

PACEM

- 24/7 operations on Sunday and Monday
- Men's Shelter: University Baptist Church, 1223 W. Main Street
- Women's Shelter: Belmont Baptist Church, 830 Monticello Avenue

Salvation Army

- 24/7 operations
- Warm rooms open for men and women (supported by PACEM)
- Meals maintained on a regular schedule

The Haven

- Emergency operations activated
- Extended sheltering hours and additional supports available

Residents are encouraged to stay informed by visiting www.charlottesville.gov, www.albemarle.org, and following official City and County social media channels for updates on weather conditions, service impacts, and safety information.

For emergencies, call 911.

For **non-emergency** concerns within the City of Charlottesville and Albemarle County, call **434-977-9041**.

The City of Charlottesville and Albemarle County thank residents for their cooperation and patience as crews and emergency responders work together to safely manage this storm.

Stay warm, stay safe, and let's all take care of each other.

Storm & Community Resources:

- **City of Charlottesville and Albemarle County Snow Operations & Updates**
<https://www.charlottesville.gov/> / <https://www.albemarle.org/>
- **Social Media**
City Facebook: charlottesvillemunicipality / County Facebook: albemarle.county
City Instagram: cvillecityhall / County Instagram: albemarlecountyva
- **Virginia 211 (community resources, shelter, food, and assistance)**
Dial 2-1-1 or 1-800-230-6977
<https://www.211virginia.org>
- **Virginia 511 – Road Conditions**
<https://www.511virginia.org>
- **Dominion Energy Outage Information**
866-366-4357
<https://www.dominionenergy.com/outages>
- **Non-Emergency Police Assistance**
434-977-9041
- **Emergency Services**
911
- **Sign Up for Emergency Alerts**
www.cua911.gov/alerts

Media Contacts

Afton Schneider
Director of Communications and Public Engagement
City of Charlottesville
434-996-0331
schneidera@charlottesville.gov

Abbey Stumpf
Director of Communications & Public Engagement
Albemarle County
434-296-5841 x3368
astumpf@albemarle.org

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