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CITY OF NEW BEDFORD
Jonathan F. Mitchell, Mayor

Date: Sunday, February 22, 2026
For Immediate Release

PRESS RELEASE

New Bedford Prepares for Blizzard

Parking Ban in Effect at 1 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 22;
Local State of Emergency Declared

NEW BEDFORD – City officials are preparing for a major winter storm beginning Sunday evening. The National Weather Service has issued a Blizzard Warning for New Bedford, in effect from 4 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 22, to 7 a.m. Tuesday, Feb. 24. The NWS predicts snow will arrive Sunday evening and last until Monday night. Total snow accumulations of 13-30 inches are expected with wind gusts reaching as high as 70 mph.

Blizzard conditions will make travel very difficult. Residents are urged to travel for emergency purposes only.

Mayor Jon Mitchell has declared a State of Emergency for the City of New Bedford.

Residents are encouraged to monitor the City's website, social media, and local news outlets for updates during and after the storm.

City Announces Parking Ban Effective 1 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 22

The City of New Bedford has announced a citywide snow emergency parking ban to take effect at 1 p.m. on Sunday, Feb. 22. Violations of the snow emergency parking ban will be subject to ticketing at $50 per ticket, and towing at full cost to the owner of the vehicle towed. The vehicle owner is also responsible for the full cost of storage for any towed vehicle.

The parking ban will be strictly enforced and will remain in effect until further notice. The parking ban is designed to allow City workers to efficiently remove snow from New Bedford

roadways, and enable public safety vehicles and residents to travel safely. See section below for more information on the parking ban.

New Bedford City Offices Closed Monday, Feb. 23

City offices and facilities will be closed Monday, Feb. 23, including City Hall, the Public Libraries, Senior Centers, Adult Day Care Center, Buttonwood Park Zoo and the Recycling Center on Shawmut Avenue.

New Bedford Public Schools Closed Monday, Feb. 23

New Bedford Public Schools are closed Monday, Feb. 23. Private, charter and regional schools, including GNB Vic-Tech, will be making separate announcements regarding the storm.

One-Day Delay of Residential Trash Collection

There will be no residential trash collection on Monday, Feb. 22, and Capitol Waste will be operating on a one-day delay schedule for the remainder of this week. Residents whose normal collection day is Monday will put their trash curbside on Tuesday. Residents whose normal collection day is Tuesday will put their trash curbside on Wednesday, and so on for the remainder of the week.

New Bedford Regional Airport Open – Passengers Should Check with Carriers

New Bedford Regional Airport will remain in operation for as long as it remains safe. Passengers should contact their air carriers directly to confirm their flight status.

Important Emergency Contact Numbers

- To report a downed power line, medical, fire or other emergencies please dial 911.
- **Eversource strongly urges residents to stay away from down wires and to report them immediately. Residents whose service is disrupted should call 1-800-592-2000**.
- To report **snow removal issues** on city streets, residents may contact the Department of Public Infrastructure at (508) 991-6150
- **New Bedford Police Department** may also be reached on its **Non-emergency line** at (508) 991-6350
- Please visit the City's Guide to Snowstorms for additional information on how to stay safe.

More Information on Snow Emergency Parking Ban/Double-Sided Parking Areas

While the snow emergency parking ban is in effect, parking is permitted on the north side of all streets going east and west, and is permitted on the east side of all streets going north and south. The permitted side of the street is typically the side opposite the fire hydrants.

Please note that on streets that are normally posted for parking on one side of the street only, residents are to obey the signs as usual. Vehicles should never be parked within 10 feet of a fire hydrant or 20 feet from a corner as required by law, regardless of whether a snow ban is in effect.

To increase public safety during storm events, the areas designated for a double-sided parking ban include sections of numerous streets (listed below), in addition to the Downtown and Acushnet Avenue Business Districts, where double-sided bans have been implemented in years past. The street sections were selected because they are major routes for ambulances, school buses, and SRTA buses, and have a history of large vehicles being unable to successfully navigate due to the narrowness of the street.

During a snow emergency parking ban, therefore, no parking is permitted on either side of the street in the following areas:

- Wood Street (Acushnet Avenue to Belleville Avenue)
- Acushnet Avenue (Tarkiln Hill Road to Coggeshall Street)
- Nash Road (Acushnet Avenue to Belleville Avenue)
- Ashley Boulevard (Nash Road to Coggeshall Street)
- County Street (Purchase Street to Cove Road)
- Cottage Street (Durfee Street to Union Street)
- Mill Street (Kempton Street to Pleasant Street)
- Kempton Street (Brownell Avenue to Pleasant Street)
- The Downtown Business District (County Street to JFK Boulevard, Kempton Street to Walnut Street)
- Dartmouth Street (Allen Street to Matthew Street)
- Rivet Street (Dartmouth Street to JFK Boulevard)

The City of New Bedford has designated the following areas as preferred parking areas for residents in need of off-street parking while the emergency snow parking ban is in effect:

- Victory Park – Brock Avenue
- Hazelwood Park – Brock Avenue
- Cove Street Parking Lot – Cove Street and Morton Court
- Orchard Street at Camara Soccer Field
- Buttonwood Park Parking Area – Hawthorn Street Side and Lake Street Side
- Coggeshall Street Parking Lot – Coggeshall Street and Acushnet Avenue
- Sawyer Street Parking Lot – Between Sawyer Street and Beetle Street
- Brooklawn Park Parking Area – Brooklawn Street (South Side)
- Riverside Park Lot – Coffin Avenue
- Coffin Avenue Lot- Across from Taber Mills Apartments
- Former Philips Avenue School – 249 Phillips Ave.
- Elm Street Garage – 51 Elm St.
- Zeiterion Garage – 688 Purchase St.

- New Bedford High School – 230 Hathaway Blvd.
- Normandin Middle School – 81 Felton St.
- Roosevelt Middle School – 119 Fredrick St.
- Charles S Ashley Elementary School – 122 Rochambeau St.
- Elizabeth Carter Brooks Elementary School – 212 Nemasket St.
- Elwyn G Campbell Elementary School – 145 Essex St.
- Sgt. Wm H Carney Academy Elementary School – 247 Elm St.
- Lot at intersection of Elm and Cottage (Southeast Corner)
- James B Congdon Elementary School – 50 Hemlock St.
- John B DeValles Elementary School – 120 Katherine St.
- Alfred J Gomes Elementary School – 286 South Second St.
- Ellen R Hathaway Elementary School – 256 Court St.
- Hayden/McFadden Elementary School – 361 Cedar Grove St.
- Former Horatio A Kempton Elementary School – 135 Shawmut Ave.
- Abraham Lincoln Elementary School – 445 Ashley Blvd.
- Carlos Pacheco Elementary School – 261 Mt. Pleasant St.
- John Avery Parker Elementary School – 705 County St.
- Casmir Pulaski Elementary School – 1097 Braley Road
- Thomas R Rodman Elementary School – 497 Mill St.
- Former William H Taylor Elementary School – 620 Brock Ave.
- Current Taylor School – 91 Portland St.
- Jireh Swift Elementary School – 2203 Acushnet Ave.
- Betsey B Winslow Elementary School – 561 Allen St.

Sand/Salt Available to City Residents at Several Locations

The Department of Public Infrastructure has made a sand/salt mix available to city residents at several locations throughout the city. Residents are advised to bring their own small container to collect the sand at any of the following locations:

- Corner of Liberty Street and Smith Street
- Brooklawn Park parking lot, next to Brooklawn Senior Center
- Parking lot at 773 South 1st St., across from Dennison Memorial Community Center.

Winter Weather Preparedness Tips for Residents and Business Owners

Residents and business owners are advised to review the Winter Weather Tips available on the City website http://www.newbedford-ma.gov/emergency-management/winter-storms/ and to take proactive steps to prepare for the winter storm.