

Media Advisory

DATE: Tuesday, February 10, 2009 – 3:30 PM

CITY OF CINCINNATI – PREPARING FOR SEVERE WIND EVENT

WEATHER STATUS: High winds are expected across Greater Cincinnati on Wednesday and Thursday.

- The National Weather Service has issued a high wind watch from Wednesday afternoon until Thursday morning for the entire region. That includes Hamilton, Clermont, Butler and Warren counties in Ohio and Boone, Kenton, Campbell, Gallatin, Grant, Owen and Pendleton counties in Kentucky.
- Showers and possibly severe thunderstorms are expected Wednesday afternoon. Sustained winds could be 30 to 35 mph. Wind gusts could reach 65 mph.
- The Weather Service warns that trees and limbs will be especially susceptible to the winds because of the recent ice storm and because the ground is saturated with the melted snow. That could mean more power outages across the area.
- Citizens should inspect areas around homes and yard for loose tree limbs and have emergency supplies and medication on hand should there be any power outages.

OPERATIONS STATUS: When winds reach 55 MPH, a risk of uprooted trees and considerable structural damage exists. The City of Cincinnati is taking precautions to minimize damage and prepare for potential cleanup efforts.

- Crews have been fueling vehicles and prepping equipment today to ready themselves for the potential cleanup resulting from the winds expected sometime tomorrow.
- Throughout the day today and into tomorrow, the City will continue to monitor the weather and prepare strategically for dealing with the event as it passes through our area.

HOW CITIZENS CAN PREPARE: Take a few minutes this evening to prepare for the potential wind event which is likely to hit our area sometime tomorrow afternoon.

- Bring in unsecured objects from patios and balconies and secure outdoor objects such as lawn furniture or garbage cans that could blow away and cause damage or injury. Consider not setting out garbage cans and recycling bins that have loose items or lids that will easily blow away. Make arrangements to secure empty cans early in the day to minimize the risk of them blowing away.

- Anticipate the potential for road closures, bridge closures, power outages, and downed trees.
- Contact vendors to know the proper use of home generators.
- Find out who in you area might need special assistance, specifically the elderly, disabled, and non-English speaking neighbors.
- Know what emergency plans are in place at your workplace, school and daycare center.
- Assemble a disaster supply kit and conduct a home safety evaluation, including the garage door, and nearby trees. If you have an electric garage door opener, locate the manual override.

Please call 591-6000 or visit our website at <http://www.cincinnati-oh.gov>, for more information.

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