



MAYOR GINA-LOUISE SCIARRA

City of Northampton

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Mayor Sciarra Declares State of Emergency Ahead of Major Winter Storm

Snow Emergency On-Street Parking Ban in Effect Beginning at 1:00 PM on Sunday, January 25, 2026 Until Further Notice.

The EJ Gare Parking Garage, Armory Street, and Hampton Avenue Parking Lots are Free Starting 1:00 PM Sunday Until Further Notice.

Schools and Non-Public Safety Municipal Offices Closed Monday

NORTHAMPTON – Mayor Gina-Louise Sciarra has declared a State of Emergency and Snow Emergency in advance of approaching winter storm Fern, expected to be one of the largest in a decade. Starting at 1:00 PM on Sunday, January 25, 2026 an on-street parking ban is in effect citywide until further notice. The Parking Garage, Amory Street Parking Lot and the Hampton Avenue Parking Lot are open and free for parking starting at 1:00 PM on Sunday until further notice. Residents are reminded that vehicles will be towed to enable plowing operations. This declaration allows the city to fully mobilize resources to keep residents safe and streets passable during and after the storm. As always, Mayor Sciarra, the Department of Public Works, and Public Safety are working closely in advance to prepare.

“We’ve got a significant winter storm on the way, and it looks like it’s going to be a bad one. The city is prepared to respond and to aid that effort I have taken the unusual step of declaring an emergency in advance of the storm to help the DPW’s efforts to plow the roads. To help keep everyone safe and allow plows and emergency vehicles to do their jobs, I’m asking residents to stay off the roads, follow snow emergency parking rules, and give our crews the time and space they need to clear streets safely,” said Mayor Sciarra. “Please check in on neighbors who may need help, and when it’s safe to do so, clear sidewalks so people can move through the city safely.”

Northampton Public Schools and Northampton Non-Public Safety Municipal Offices will be closed on Monday.

Snow emergencies and alerts are always posted at northamptonma.gov and on the city’s Facebook and Instagram pages. Residents will also receive CodeRED calls, texts, and emails

([sign up HERE](#)), and blue lights at 13 major intersections will activate during this time. The Snow Emergency Hotline at 413-586-6969 is available for recorded updates.

Please help make it possible for everyone to get where they need to go once it is safe. Residents are reminded that City Ordinance § 285-17 requires property owners to shovel sidewalks, including curb ramps/cuts, and to treat ice within 24 hours of a snowstorm (or by 9:00 a.m. the next business day in commercial districts) to avoid a \$50 fine. Sidewalks and especially curb cuts may require attention more than once during a large storm, where plows make multiple passes on city streets.

DPW and public safety employees take pride in their service to Northampton. DPW will focus on clearing major arterial roadways and prioritizing public safety response capability. Police and Fire/ Rescue teams are ready to respond in case of any emergencies during the storm.

Mayor Sciarra further shared, “Northampton has always taken care of one another in moments like this. With patience, cooperation, and care for our neighbors, we’ll get through this storm together. Stay home, stay warm, watch the Patriots, and help the city do its part to mitigate the challenges caused by this major weather event.”

Please also practice safe snow shoveling, and take steps to protect your heart. Warm up first with light, dynamic stretching, dress warmly, and take indoor breaks to stay warm and hydrated. Push snow when you can, avoid lifting it above your chest, breathe out as you lift, and pace yourself with frequent breaks. Use snow blowers or wheeled equipment when possible. Know the warning signs of a heart attack, and call 911 right away if you or someone else experiences chest discomfort, shortness of breath, pain spreading to the arms or jaw, dizziness, nausea, or a racing heart. For more information about safe shoveling, please [click here](#).

For more information, contact the Mayor’s Office at 413-587-1249 or mayor@northamptonma.gov.