

For Immediate Release:
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Gov. Lynch: Stay Off Roads

Call 2-1-1 for Assistance; 9-1-1 in an Emergency

Residents Whose Homes Are Prone to Flooding, Wind Damage Should Seek
Alternative Shelter Immediately

Power Outages Will Continue to Increase

CONCORD - As Hurricane Irene reaches New Hampshire this morning, Gov. John Lynch called on New Hampshire citizens to stay off the roads and beaches except in emergency situations. The Governor is also urging those whose homes may not sustain high winds or who live in flood-prone areas to seek alternate shelter immediately.

Gov. Lynch recommended that individuals seeking alternative shelter call 2-1-1 for information before venturing out.

"Over the course of the day and through the night, this storm will intensify. I call on all our residents to stay off the roads and beaches, and to listen to the warnings of emergency officials," Gov. Lynch said. "If you need assistance, please call 2-1-1 for information, or call 9-1-1 for an emergency."

The National Weather Service is forecasting Tropical Storm Irene to pass directly over New Hampshire Sunday afternoon. The storm has already impacted the state with significant rainfall and high winds. The state's utilities are beginning to report power outages and there are already several road closures because of flooding and downed power lines."

Currently, 16 shelters are open across the state. Other regional and local shelters will open as needed.

Anyone looking for more information regarding regional and local shelters should call 2-1-1 and call 9-1-1 for any emergency.

All State Parks - including all beaches on the Seacoast - State Forests and Trails have closed. The Parks will reopen Tuesday, Aug. 30, subject to any damage and debris removal needed in the aftermath of the storm. State and local officials are asking everyone to avoid Seacoast beaches throughout the day today.

Gov. Lynch is the Emergency Operations Center this morning and continues to be in close coordination with federal, state and local emergency management officials, and state agency leaders.

For updated storm information, go to www.readynh.nh.gov.

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