

Fort Meade Adverse Weather Status Reference

The installation's goal is to make a weather status call by **9 p.m. the night prior to the workday**. All weather announcements apply to the **Fort Meade Garrison**. Tenant organizations may have separate policies.

Communication Channels:

Primary	Secondary
My Army Post app	Social media channels (@USAGFortMeade)
	Fort Meade website (home.army.mil/meade)
	Radio (WTOP, WBAL)
Department of Defense Alert! Mass Warning and Notification System	Local TV (CBS, NBC, ABC, FOX and DC/Baltimore affiliates)
	Recorded Meade weather line: 301-677-MEAD (301-677-6323)

Installation Status Categories

Status	Description	Conditions
Normal Operations	The installation is open and operating on regular hours.	If driving conditions in the commuting area become hazardous during duty hours, personnel may be released early. Mission essential personnel must remain/report as scheduled.
Reduced Operations	The installation is open, but all garrison and DFMWR facilities and services — including the ID Card Office, gym, and other Fort Meade MWR facilities — are closed.	Garrison employees are authorized unscheduled leave or unscheduled telework, with supervisor approval. Critical personnel must report to duty as scheduled.
Early Release	The installation will conduct a staggered or immediate release.	Announced when driving conditions are, or will become, hazardous. Personnel are released from duty; mission essential personnel remain/report as scheduled.
Delayed Opening	The installation will open at [Time, e.g., 10:00 a.m.]. Personnel scheduled to report for duty before this time shall report when the installation opens. Personnel scheduled to report for duty at or after this time will report as normally scheduled. This procedure is in place to manage traffic flow and prevent congestion at the gates.	A delayed opening is announced when hazardous road conditions require additional time for snow removal operations. All employees are directed to report no earlier than the scheduled opening time. DFMWR Child & Youth Services will align its opening with the installation's, while other facility-specific hours will be published in separate announcements.
Shelter in Place	All personnel on the installation must remain in place until notified by officials that they may return to their offices or worksites.	During a shelter-in-place emergency, personnel may be restricted to their offices for periods beyond their normal duty hours. Follow your building / unit Emergency Action Plan for detailed guidance.

Fort Meade does **not** follow the OPM adverse weather guidance, which targets agencies inside the *Washington Capital Beltway*. OPM announcements are considered, but only decisions made by the **Garrison Commander** are announced as Fort Meade's adverse weather status.



Weather Call / Notification Methods

- The Garrison Commander or their representative is responsible to make the weather call.
- Tenant organizations generally mirror the garrison status.
- As soon as there is sufficient information to make a weather call it will be made
- When inclement weather is forecasted the GC or their rep convenes a weather decision making meeting generally 1900 the night before. If delayed for an early morning call the decision will be made NLT 0400.
- The first notification system a weather call is posted on is **677-MEAD**

EOC Notification Methods

- 677-Mead (6323)
- Alert! (cell/bb/home/email/txt)
- Alert! User Registration Guide (Separate attachment)
- Giant Voice
- Email Distro contact:
usarmyftmeadedptms-chop@army.mil



Alert! User
Registration Guide

PAO Notification Methods

- My Army Post App (MAPA)
- Web Social Media (Fort Meade Website, Facebook and Instagram)
- Radio: WBAL and WTOP
- Publish Status: CBS, ABC, NBC, Fox affiliates for DC and Baltimore *Station terminology may be different then OPM Guidance.
- Contact PAO with any questions:
FortMeadePAO@army.mil

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Snow Removal Priority And Timelines

Roads, Parking Lots & Sidewalks

Priority 1: Continuous Clearing throughout the weather event



Including Cooper Road, Rockenbach Road, Reece Road, Mapes Road, Llewellyn Ave, and Rock Ave

Priority 2: Clearing starts when the weather event ends and NLT 6 hours



Priority areas are based on the decision of the garrison commander. Check our platforms for weather event specifics.

Priority 3: Clearing starts when weather event ends and NLT 12 hours



Priority areas are based on the decision of the garrison commander. Check our platforms for weather event specifics.

Priority 4: No Clearing



Priority areas are based on the decision of the garrison commander. Check our platforms for weather event specifics.

Note: Housing areas are cleared by Corvias. For questions, residents can contact their local community center.

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Key Terms

Winter Weather

Winter Weather Advisories:

- Winter Weather Advisories
- Freezing Rain Advisories **Hazardous travel**

Winter Weather Watches:

- Blizzard Watches **travel very dangerous**
- Winter Storm Watches

Winter Weather Warnings:

- Blizzard Warnings **Do not travel.**
- Winter Storm Warnings **Delay your travel plans until conditions improve**
- Ice Storm Warnings **Travel is strongly discouraged.**

Road Conditions

Green Road Conditions (Normal conditions)

Yellow Road Conditions (Partially covered or slippery conditions)

Red Road Conditions (Completely covered/ icy conditions)

Black Road Conditions (Dangerous conditions)

ONLY EMERGENCY-ESSENTIAL VEHICLES ARE AUTHORIZED ON BLACK ROADS

Operational Status

- Normal Operations
- Reduced Operations
- Early Release
- Delayed Opening
- Shelter in Place

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Key Terms - Weather

Winter Weather related Advisories, Watches, and Warnings are issued by local National Weather Service office.

Winter Weather Advisories:

Winter Weather Advisories - issued when snow, blowing snow, ice, sleet, or a combination of these wintry elements are expected but conditions should not be hazardous enough to meet warning criteria.

Freezing Rain Advisories issued when light ice accumulation (freezing rain and/or freezing drizzle) is expected but will not reach warning criteria. **Expect a glaze on roads resulting in hazardous travel.**

Winter Weather Watches:

Blizzard Watches issued when there is a potential for falling and/or blowing snow with strong winds and extremely poor visibilities. This can lead to whiteout conditions and make **travel very dangerous.**

Winter Storm Watches issued when conditions are favorable for a significant winter storm event (heavy sleet, heavy snow, ice storm, heavy snow and blowing snow or a combination of events.)

Winter Weather Warnings:

Blizzard Warnings means severe winter weather conditions are expected or occurring. Falling and blowing snow with strong winds and poor visibilities are likely, leading to whiteout conditions making travel extremely difficult. **Do not travel.** If you must travel, have a winter survival kit with you. If you get stranded, stay with your vehicle and wait for help to arrive.

Winter Storm Warnings issued for a significant winter weather event including snow, ice, sleet or blowing snow or a combination of these hazards. Travel will become difficult or impossible in some situations. **Delay your travel plans until conditions improve.**

Ice Storm Warnings are usually issued for ice accumulation of around 1/4 inch or more. This amount of ice accumulation will make travel dangerous or impossible and likely lead to snapped power lines and falling tree branches. **Travel is strongly discouraged.**

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Key Terms – Road Conditions

Green Road Conditions (Normal conditions): Describes normal day -to-day conditions. Personnel and their dependents are encouraged to drive with caution.

Yellow Road Conditions (Partially covered or slippery conditions): Describes a degraded environment. Personnel and their dependents will travel only when necessary and wear proper protective garments for working conditions.

Red Road Conditions (Completely covered/ icy conditions): Describes a degraded environment when hazardous travel and working conditions exist. Personnel and their dependents are restricted to mission essential travel only

Black Road Conditions (Dangerous conditions): Describes a degraded environment when no travel or working conditions exist except for storm essential personnel and bona fide emergencies. Black applies only to Ft Meade Jurisdictional areas.

- Emergency essential personnel are authorized to respond to their work sections using properly equipped vehicles.
- Installation entry control points should stop outbound vehicles and inform occupants of the following: current travel condition, inform active-duty military members (if directed by higher authority) they are not allowed to exit the base, civilians will be encouraged to remain on-base, but will not stop them from departing if they request to leave.

ONLY EMERGENCY-ESSENTIAL VEHICLES ARE AUTHORIZED ON BLACK ROADS

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Operating Status

**OPM Guidance
(unchanged Dec 2022)**

Aligning with the Office of Personnel Management in the National Capital Region (OPM – NCR) adverse weather decisions, the option for "***unscheduled leave or unscheduled telework***" ***provided they receive permission from their supervisor***, to take annual leave or telework.

1. **Normal Operations**
2. **Reduced Operations** (Option for Unscheduled Leave or Unscheduled Telework)
3. **Early Release** (Staggered Release, No Later Than And Immediate Release)
4. **Delayed Opening** (Unscheduled Leave Or Unscheduled Telework – Report NLT...) **Time Set for Arrival ie 1000**
5. **Shelter In Place**

<https://www.opm.gov/policy-data-oversight/pay-leave/reference-materials/handbooks/dcdissmissal.pdf>

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For barracks residents:

A snowstorm is on the way. Please review the following information to ensure your safety and preparedness.

Emergency Work Orders

For any emergency work orders, please call 301-677-1629 instead of using ArMA.

Weather Announcements

The garrison will try to make weather-related announcements the night before, but soldiers need to confirm with their individual units as they may follow different procedures.

Dining Services

The Warrior Restaurant is anticipated to stay open during the storm; however, you should have non-perishable foods on hand in case it becomes difficult to get there.

Power Outages

During a power outage, there are no backup generators to support the barracks. The Garrison will work with BGE to restore power as quickly as possible. If a prolonged outage occurs the Garrison and your unit will provide guidance.

Stay Charged

Keep your cell phone and any backup chargers you have fully charged.

6401 and 6409 Heating Systems

If your room's heating system is impacted by construction, please check to ensure your space heater is working correctly. In the event of extremely low temperatures, keeping your bedroom door closed will help contain the heat.

For any questions or concerns, please reach out to your unit leaders. Thank you for your cooperation!

For Corvias housing residents:

Before the Storm

Prevent Frozen or Burst Pipes

- Disconnect and drain all exterior hoses
- Set indoor faucets to a slow drip, especially overnight
- Open cabinets under sinks to allow warm air to circulate
- Keep garage doors closed
- Maintain a consistent thermostat setting
- Ensure your furnace filter is clean and recently replaced

Know Your Water Shut-Offs

- Each home has a centralized water shut-off valve (turn clockwise to close)
- Most fixtures and appliances also have individual shut-off valves nearby
- Knowing these locations in advance can help reduce damage during an emergency


Parking & Roadway Access

- Speed bumps will be temporarily removed to allow snowplows to operate safely
- Please park vehicles in garages or driveways and use designated parking areas
- Avoid street or curb parking during the storm and snow removal operations

During the Storm

- Maintenance response times may be slower due to road conditions
- Please set thermostats between **65–70 degrees** to reduce strain on the power system
- If a pipe freezes, open the nearest cold-water faucet to relieve pressure
- If a leak or burst pipe occurs, turn off the water immediately and contact maintenance

24/7 Maintenance Emergency Line:

 **1-844-346-1490**

After the Storm

Corvias teams will continue recovery efforts following the winter event. Due to high service demand, cold-weather emergencies will be prioritized, and routine work orders may experience delays.

Snow Removal

Community streets, sidewalks, and parking areas will be treated and cleared as conditions allow. Residents are encouraged to clear snow and ice from porches, private sidewalks, and driveways to help prevent slips and falls.

Community Center Contacts

If you are away from Fort Meade and have concerns about your home:

- **Potomac Place & Patriot Ridge:** (410) 672-2981 | Potomac.Place@corvias.com
- **Heritage Park & Normandy Bluffs:** (410) 672-2000 | Heritage.Park@corvias.com
- **Midway Commons:** (410) 672-2301 | Midway.Common@corvias.com
- **Meuse Forest:** (410) 672-2475 | Meuse.Forest@corvias.com

For additional guidance, please refer to the Corvias winter home material.

Winter Tips

Keep your home in the best shape for winter.



- ❄ Turn off faucets on the exterior of your home to prevent freezing pipes and water intrusions from a ruptured pipe.



- ❄ If outside temperatures reach 30 degrees or below:
 - Leave all bathroom and kitchen faucets at a slow drip to prevent water pipes from freezing.
 - Open all sink-based cabinet doors to allow heat to pass through unexposed areas.
 - Set heat to 68 degrees and above.



- ❄ Adjust the temperature in your home by raising or lowering the heat, opening a window or using a fan.



- ❄ Avoid running A/C systems when the outdoor temperature is 55 degrees or lower. Doing so can cause significant damage to the compressor and evaporator.

Questions? Please contact your nearest community center.



Corvias
PROPERTY MANAGEMENT



Be Prepared for a Winter Storm

Winter storms create a higher risk of car accidents, hypothermia, frostbite, carbon monoxide poisoning, and heart attacks from overexertion.



IF YOU ARE UNDER A WINTER STORM WARNING, FIND SHELTER RIGHT AWAY



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How to Stay Safe When a Winter Storm Threatens

Prepare NOW

- **Know your area's risk for winter storms.** Extreme weather can leave your community without utilities and other services for long periods of time.
- **Prepare your home to keep out the cold with insulation, caulking, and weather stripping.** Learn how to keep your pipes from freezing. Install and test smoke alarms and detectors with battery backups.
- **Pay attention to weather reports and warnings of freezing weather and winter storms.** Sign up for your community's warning systems. The Emergency Alert System (EAS) and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Weather Radio also provides alerts.
- **Gather Supplies in case you need to stay home for several days without power.** Keep in mind each person's specific needs, including Medication. Do not forget the needs of pets. Have extra batteries for radios and flashlights.
- **Create an emergency supply kit for your car.** Include jumper cables, sand, a flashlight, warm clothes, blankets, bottled water, and non-perishable snacks. Keep the gas tank full.
- **Learn to identify the signs of and basic treatments for frostbite and hypothermia.** For more information visit: www.cdc.gov/disasters/winter/staysafe/index.html

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How to Stay Safe When a Winter Storm Threatens

Survive During

- **Stay off the roads if al possible.** If trapped in your car, stay inside..
- **Limit your time outside.** If you need to go outside, wear layers of warm clothing. Watch for signs of frostbite and hypothermia.
- **Avoid carbon monoxide poisoning.** Only use generators and grills outdoors and away from windows. Never heat your home with a gas stovetop or oven.
- **Reduce the risk of a heart attack.** Avoid overexertion when shoveling snow.
- **Watch for signs of frostbite and hypothermia and begin treatment right away.**
- **Check on neighbors.** Older adults and young children are more at risk in extreme cold

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How to Stay Safe When a Winter Storm Threatens

Recognize and Respond

- **Frostbite** causes loss of feeling and color around the face, fingers, and toes.
 - **Signs:** Numbness, white or grayish-yellow skin, and firm or waxy skin.
 - **Actions:** Go to a warm room. Soak in warm water. Use body heat to warm. Do not massage or use a heating pad.
- **Hypothermia.** Is an unusually low body temperature. A temperature below 95 degrees is an emergency!
 - **Signs:** Shivering, exhaustion, confusion, fumbling hands, memory loss, slurred speech, and drowsiness.
 - **Actions:** Go to a warm room. Warm the center of the body first – chest, neck, head and groin. Keep dry and wrapped up in warm blankets, including head and neck.

Take an Active Role in Your Safety

Go to [Ready.gov/winter-weather](https://www.ready.gov/winter-weather). Download the **FEMA app** to get more information about preparing for a **winter storm**.

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USAG Fort Meade *Safety* Gram



25-08

01 December 2025

Cold Weather Safety

For many people, working or playing in cold weather can be a positive experience. You may feel invigorated by the bracing air and feel like doing your work with more physical energy than usual. When it comes to leisure, cold weather offers many enjoyable activities whether it's skiing, skating, snowmobiling or ice fishing.

Unfortunately, all the enjoyable aspects of working or playing out in cold weather can turn negative if you are not dressed warmly or dryly enough. Over exposure to cold and dampness can cause your body temperature to lower. This condition is called hypothermia. You may have it when you start to shiver, and experience chills, or find yourself unable to think or speak clearly. You may lose your coordination and quite possibly your consciousness.

You could also get frostbite which is when your body tissue freezes. Frostbite happens most frequently to your extremities like your feet and toes, fingers, face and nose. Symptoms include numbness and a white and waxy appearance to your skin.



There are many things you can do to dress properly for the cold

- Dress in layers so you can remove or put on clothing according to the temperature.
- Always wear a warm hat on your head—this is the part of the body that loses heat the fastest. There are also liners you can wear to keep your head warm under a hard hat or other kinds of protective head gear. Consider wearing a knitted face mask to deflect cold and wind chill.
- Wear waterproof, insulated boots with several layers of socks, preferably cotton ones under wool. They enable your feet to breathe. When your socks or boot liners become wet, remove and replace them.
- Always wear warm gloves or mitts. Some gloves have liners which, if wet, should be removed and replaced.

In addition to dressing properly for cold conditions, it's important to eat regularly when you are out in the cold, especially foods high in carbohydrates and fats. Your body requires an enormous number of calories to shiver and keep warm. Avoid alcohol, contrary to the popular image of the St. Bernard dog delivering brandy to warm a frozen victim.

Try to keep moving while in the cold; don't be still. This helps to keep your body temperature up and circulation moving. If you think you are experiencing symptoms of hypothermia or frostbite, get to a shelter right away and seek medical help.



When you work or play in the cold, it is a good idea to have a companion. What if you were to become injured or over-exposed to the cold and couldn't seek help yourself?

Remember: working or playing in cold weather can be a positive experience if you dress warmly and use common sense about protecting yourself.

BGE Information & Assistance

BGE Customer Relief Fund

BGE and the United Way of Central Maryland have launched a temporary relief fund for residential gas customers facing high energy costs. Applications open on January 21, 2026.

- Eligibility:
 - Active BGE residential gas customer.
 - Past-due balance of at least \$250.
 - Meet limited- or moderate-income thresholds.
- How to Apply: To check full eligibility criteria and to apply, visit <https://uwcm.org/bge-customer-relief-fund/>

BGE Assistance Year-Round

For more information on payment arrangements, budget billing, and other financial assistance, visit <https://www.bge.com/winter> or use BGE's self-service Assistance Finder tool.

Preparedness & Safety Resources

- BGE: [Outage Readiness and Safety](#)
- Ready.gov: [Build an Emergency Kit](#)
- Ready.gov: [Winter Ready Resources](#)