## Paul Farrow

County Executive



## Waukesha County

Office of the County Executive

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
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## WAUKESHA COUNTY EXTENDS EMERGENCY DECLARATION, OPENS WARMING SHELTER

Winter storm causes thousands of power outages county-wide

(WAUKESHA, WI)- Today, Saturday, January 13, 2024, County Executive Paul Farrow has extended a State of Emergency Declaration due to severe winter weather that hit the area. The declaration remains in effect through Monday, January 15, 2024, at 11:59 pm.

The amount of snowfall and blowing winds has created dangerous travel conditions across Waukesha County and caused thousands of residents to lose power. Department of Public Works crews have been working around the clock to clear roadways. Waukesha County Communications Center has been fielding many calls for downed power lines and fallen trees.

In coordination with the Red Cross and Salvation Army, the County is opening the Waukesha County Expo Center located at 1000 Northview Rd, Waukesha, WI 53188 as a site for those to seek shelter while crews work to restore power to their homes. The shelter will be open at 4:00p on Saturday, January 13th. Keep up to date on shelter operations at www.waukeshacounty.gov and www.facebook.com/CountyExecutivePaulFarrow.

The following shelter services will be available: Cots & blankets, food and drink, mental health counseling services, and language translation.

The facility can accommodate members of the public with functional needs, including, but not limited to residents with children, medical needs, and limited mobility. No identification is required to check-in to the shelter. Please bring any vital medications, clothing, or bedding. We encourage everyone to stay with friends and family if possible.



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**Please DO NOT BRING**: Your own food (unless you have specific dietary restrictions), any items that are not necessities, alcohol or firearms. There is limited storage space at the Waukesha Expo Center Arena. The shelter will not be able to accept pets.

For more information, please utilize the following website: <a href="www.waukeshacounty.gov">www.waukeshacounty.gov</a>. Do not call 911, unless there is an emergency.

For additional assistance, please dial 211.

County offices and courthouse operations will reopen on Tuesday, January 16, at 8am.

Offices are closed Monday, January 15<sup>th</sup> in recognition of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day.

All 24-hour operations such as the Communication Center, Jail, Mental Health Center, and Sheriff's Department are not impacted by the closure and will maintain their regular schedule and operations.

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