

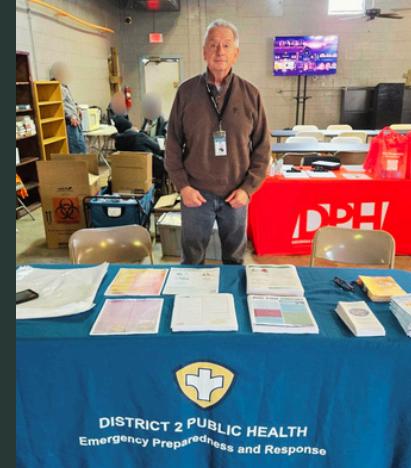
EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

EP NEWS & VIEWS



GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

North Health District

Inside this Issue:

1. Cover Page
2. Community Events
3. Winter Storm Preparedness
4. Stay Warm

BLAST FROM THE PAST

99

COMMUNITY EVENTS



Ribbon Cutting Ceremony

11/20/25 | Hall County Health Department

After 2 years of diligent effort, Hall County Health Department is now fully renovated! The facility has expanded to meet the evolving needs and growing population of Hall County. During renovations, the health department continued operations to serve clients and was closed for only one day. We thank everyone for their remarkable planning and effort for this impactful project.

Vigilant Guard Exercise

12/2/25 - 12/4/25 | Georgia Statewide

A nuclear detonation full-scale EXERCISE was conducted with multiple agencies across Georgia. The District 2 EP team participated by providing education and setting up a community reception center at the District office using equipment that is able to detect radioactive material. The EP team engaged in trainings and simulated response efforts led by the State Public Health Emergency Preparedness and Response team.



Street Exit/ Ninth District Opportunity

12/3/25 | Resource Center

The Hall County Health Department and District 2 Public Health supported the work of the Street Exit/Ninth District Opportunity and the Unity Project at the Resource Center. Information on Hall County HD services, Emergency Preparedness initiatives and COVID tests, and women's hygiene products were provided, as well as HIV and STI testing and protection. The day marked a continuing partnership in outreach for the unhoused community between District 2 and the Unity Project.

Quarterly Healthcare Coalition Meeting

12/19/25 | Hybrid

The final Healthcare Coalition meeting of the year convened many health organizations together as an opportunity to learn from each other, build community, and prepare for emergencies. Street Exit, or Ninth District Opportunity presented the Unity project, and the District 2 EP team shared info about the Vigilant Guard exercise.



WHAT IS A WINTER STORM?

A winter storm is a combination of various conditions such as snow, high winds, freezing rain, and/or sleet., according to the NOAA. Winter storms affect North Georgia and can lead to extreme cold and the following hazards below.

WINTER STORM HAZARDS



Icy Roads



Power Outage



Fallen tree branches



Frostbite & hypothermia



House Heating fires

Last January, during Winter Storm Cora, the EP team monitored statewide emergency needs and potential resource requests. Car accidents were frequent, and roads were blocked. Before driving during a winter storm, it is important to check guidance from local officials from the news or through weather alerts to determine if it is safe to drive. Driving in icy conditions is truly a risk as we have seen in past storms. Try to avoid driving during a winter storm. If you must go out, keep emergency supplies in your vehicle in case you are caught on blocked roads or out in a winter storm.

Have you experienced a power outage in the winter? Strong winds or ice can weigh down power lines and tree branches, knocking them down. It can be a few hours or a few days until the power is restored. Planning ahead is key! Keep nonperishable food at home in case refrigerated items spoil, and have backup methods to charge electronically powered medical devices. With winter storm hazards in mind, see simple actions you can take below to stay prepared.

Winter Storm Planning Timeline

A few days out

If the forecast calls for winter weather, start preparing now.

Have emergency supplies for your home & car

Check your smoke and carbon monoxide detectors

Replenish fuel for your car and heating sources

The day before

Forecast accuracy continues to improve, so keep checking the latest.

Adjust plans

Have multiple ways to receive Warnings

Bring pets indoors and ensure they have water

During & After

Remain vigilant and stay informed. Drive only if necessary.

Check on neighbors and family

Properly ventilate emergency heat sources

Keep generators at least 20 feet from your home

Take it easy when shoveling

weather.gov 

Knowledge Check

What of the following can cause carbon monoxide poisoning?

- A.) microwave
- B.) generator
- C.) computer
- D.) T.V.

STAY WARM IN 2026!



Stay warm to maintain a stable body temperature and to prevent illness

- **Frostbite:** injury caused by freezing that leads to numbness and loss of color, usually affecting the extremities (nose, ears, fingers, etc). It can cause permanent damage and even amputation.
- **Hypothermia:** body reaches an abnormally low temperature due to being in the cold for a long time. This is a medical emergency and the person may be confused or unconscious

Dress warm:



- Wear layers of dry, loose-fitting clothes
- Cover face and mouth with scarf or knit mask.
- Wear mittens/gloves and water resistant coat and boots



Vulnerable populations:

- Newborns, individuals with chronic illness, elderly individuals, outdoor workers, and unhoused individuals are more vulnerable to the cold because they are less able to regulate their body temperature.



When the power goes out, it gets cold! Heat your home safely. House heating fires are the 2nd leading cause of fires in the home.



Save money on heating bills:

- Weather-strip around doors and windows
- Set your fan to spin clockwise to push warm air down
- Close curtains at night

- Do not use the oven or stove to warm the home.
- Remember to keep generators outside and 20 feet away from your home and windows.
- Install carbon monoxide detectors.