

NEWS *from Middletown, Pa.*

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Snow Emergency lifted in Middletown

Middletown Mayor James H. Curry III has lifted the snow emergency in the Borough.

Under the conditions of the snow emergency, which the Mayor put into effect Tuesday evening, parking was restricted along certain key thoroughfares in the Borough to allow crews to more effectively clear snow from those roadways.

"We thank those residents who moved their vehicles. At the same time, with the potential for more snow in the forecast for the weekend, we may again be in a snow emergency situation," Mayor Curry said. "Should that occur, we will again strictly enforce those parking restrictions in order to make sure those streets are cleared and passable for emergency vehicles."

Current forecasts show more winter weather is likely Saturday or Sunday, with some models forecasting the possibility of blizzard-like conditions if two systems merge into one storm. Mayor Curry said he has directed the Borough's Emergency Management staff to closely monitor weather forecasts.

In addition to lifting the snow emergency order, Mayor Curry also directed the Borough's Emergency Operations Center to stand down. The EOC had been activated Wednesday morning in response to widespread power outages in the Borough due to the ice storm that hit the area Tuesday night into Wednesday morning.

Two major circuits in the Borough's electrical system were damaged by falling trees. The first area was restored around midday; Power was restored to the second area at 4:33 p.m.

"As a result of back-to-back winter storms this week, Middletown sustained serious damage. While some utility companies have predicted ongoing outages for the next several days, Middletown's power was restored by the time residents arrived home from work," Mayor Curry said. "That is a testament to the efforts of our Public Works Department. I would like to personally thank that department, as well as our police force, borough employees, emergency management coordinator, and numerous volunteers who helped to ensure the safety of our residents. Their efforts are much appreciated."

With the EOC closing, phone lines set up for reporting storm related problems will be deactivated. Residents with after-hours utility problems should call the Borough's normal after-hours utility number, 717-943-2895.

Mayor Curry also closed the heating station at the Middletown Volunteer Fire Company. The heating station will be reopened if conditions warrant, he said.