

PRESS RELEASE

STATE OF EMERGENCY



HICKMAN COUNTY EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

01.23.2026

Press Release: State of Emergency

Hickman County is actively preparing for a winter storm expected to impact our area within the next 24 to 48 hours. Forecast conditions remain dynamic, and we continue to closely monitor changes as this system approaches.

Earlier today, the Commonwealth of Kentucky declared a statewide State of Emergency. At 8:07 a.m., The Hickman County Judge Executive, Kenny Wilson and Hickman County Emergency Management declared a local State of Emergency to ensure we are fully prepared and positioned to respond. This declaration allows the county to track resources, personnel hours, operational costs, and exploring avenues of reimbursement while maintaining readiness across all departments.

The Office of Emergency Management is operating in monitoring status, with the Emergency Operations Center prepared for activation if needed. Emergency Management and Judge Executive Office staff continue to participate in ongoing planning calls with Kentucky Emergency Management and the National Weather Service.

The Clinton Fire Department, Hickman County Fire and Rescue, and the Columbus Fire Department have prepared their equipment and personnel and are ready to respond as conditions develop.

Clinton Hickman County Ambulance Service has begun conducting house calls and welfare checks on oxygen dependent residents to ensure continuity of care throughout the storm along with further preparing equipment.

Our county road department and city street department have taken aggressive action ahead of the storm. Approximately 6,000 gallons of brine has been applied throughout Hickman County and the City of Clinton, including critical facility parking lots such as the courthouse, fire departments, schools, emergency medical services, critical care facilities and government offices. Equipment is staged and ready for plowing operations to begin early Saturday morning. The City of Clinton has assessed drainage systems and manholes, secured plowing routes, and staged approximately 30 tons of salt for continued operations.

Our Kentucky Department of Transportation here in Hickman County has completed approximately 14,000 gallons of brine on their A, B, and C routes along with preparation of equipment to begin plowing in the early morning hours of Saturday morning.

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Warming Centers are now open at Clinton First United Methodist Church, located in the basement and the Columbus Baptist Church. As conditions warrant, additional locations are prepared to open to meet community needs.

The Hickman County School System is preparing contingency plans to support students and families, including meal assistance and outreach to households that may need additional resources during this event.

At this time, essential businesses were contacted along with our critical care facilities, including grocery stores, gas stations, and hardware stores, report stable inventories with no supply chain interruptions. They have provided our office with delivery schedules in case additional resources are needed to ensure they receive their deliveries.

Our greatest concerns remain the potential northward movement of the ice line into additional areas of Hickman County and below freezing temperatures over the next several days itself. Hickman County Office of Emergency Management, emergency services, county leadership, and community partners stand ready, together.

We will continue to monitor conditions, provide updates, and respond as needed to protect and provide for our residents.

Stay Safe, Stay Warm, and God Bless,

Hickman County Office of Emergency Management

Dylan Jewell, Director

Justin D. Jackson, Public Information Officer/Emergency Service Liaison

Scott Smith, Deputy Director

Ethan Cunningham, Deputy Director