
County of Huron

Severe Winter Weather

Emergency Preparedness Guide





www.HuronCounty.ca | Visit our website for more information on emergency preparedness.

Plan for Severe Winter Weather

Huron residents can expect severe weather during the winter season. Winter storms can limit access to services and cause extensive delays, power outages, hazardous winter driving, property damage, and life-threatening conditions.

Monitoring the weather forecast and being prepared can make a big difference to you and your household's safety when severe winter weather approaches.

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Tips for how to be prepared:

- Stay informed of local weather forecast & alerts.
- Prepare your vehicles for the winter season.
- Avoid unnecessary travel during storms.
- Be prepared for power outages.
- Protect yourself & wear layers of warm clothing if outdoors.
- Have a household emergency plan.
- Have a 72-hour emergency kit.
- Stay clear of downed trees & power lines.

Severe Winter Weather Information

When severe weather is approaching, Environment Canada will issue special alerts to notify those in the affected area. Paying attention to these alerts can help you take steps to protect yourself and your property from harm.

These public alert bulletins are issued through the media, Environment Canada's [Weatheradio service](#), and on [weather.gc.ca](#).

Examples of Public Weather Alerts that are issued by Environment Canada during the winter season include, but are not limited to:

- ❄️ Blizzard
- ❄️ Freezing Rain
- ❄️ Blowing Snow
- ❄️ Snowfall
- ❄️ Flash Freeze
- ❄️ Snow Squall
- ❄️ Freezing Drizzle
- ❄️ Winter Storm



[weather.gc.ca](#) | Environment Canada monitors and forecasts weather 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Forecast Weather Threat Levels

Minor

Threat level: Minor

This weather event is potentially significant or of interest. Users should stay informed.

Moderate

Threat level: Moderate

This weather event has the potential to be hazardous and lead to some damage or disruption. Be vigilant.

High

Threat level: High

This weather event has the potential to cause widespread significant damage or disruption. Prepare to protect yourself and your property. Be extra vigilant.

Extreme

Threat level: Extreme

This weather event has the potential to be very dangerous and possibly life threatening. Prolonged, extensive disruption is expected. Absolute vigilance required.

Winter Driving Information

Winter weather can create additional driving hazards such as ice and snow accumulation or decreased visibility. When these or other conditions reach extreme levels, the OPP may choose to close one or more roads for public safety. Roads may be closed for several hours, or even several days, depending on the size and scale of the winter storm.

Drivers are urged to consult regional sources of information before setting out on the road and use caution during the entire winter season.

Tips for how to be prepared:

- Put winter tires on vehicles in time for the winter season.
- During weather related events, avoid all unnecessary travel.
- For safety, don't pass or drive close to snow plows & salt trucks.
- Have local tow truck contact information & an emergency car kit.
- Stay informed of your local weather forecast & alerts.
- Respect travel advisories & road closure notices.

Emergency Car Kit

If you have a car, keep an emergency kit in your vehicle, especially for the cold weather season. Below are some items to consider in your kit:

- ☐ Food that won't easily spoil, such as energy bars.
- ☐ Water in plastic bottles (won't break if frozen).
- ☐ Blanket or sleeping bag.
- ☐ Extra clothing and shoes.
- ☐ First aid kit and a seatbelt cutter.
- ☐ Small shovel, scraper, and snow-brush.
- ☐ Hand and foot warmers.
- ☐ Wind-up flashlight.
- ☐ Whistle.
- ☐ Road maps.
- ☐ Cell phone chargers.
- ☐ Copy of emergency plan and personal documents.

Also, keep these inside your trunk:

- ☐ Sand, salt or cat litter (non clumping).
- ☐ Antifreeze/windshield washer fluid.
- ☐ Tow rope.
- ☐ Jumper cables.
- ☐ Fire extinguisher.
- ☐ Warning light or road flares.

Road Closures and Reopenings

In the event of a winter storm or other incident, the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) are solely responsible for determining when to close or re-open any provincial or municipal road under the Highway Traffic Act.

Information about road closures and re-openings is shared with the public through www.511on.ca, for provincial roads and www.municipal511.ca, for municipal roads.

School Bus Cancellations & Delays

In our region, school bus information is provided by Huron Perth Student Transportation Services.

Web: ourschoolbuses.ca

Local Radio Stations

Local radio media may provide regular reports to the public about weather alerts, road closures, or school bus cancellations and delays.

AM 920 – CKNX

FM 101.7 – The One

Cool 94.5

Country 104.9: Goderich

Shoreline Classics FM

90.5 MyFM: Exeter



Provincial, County and Local Roads

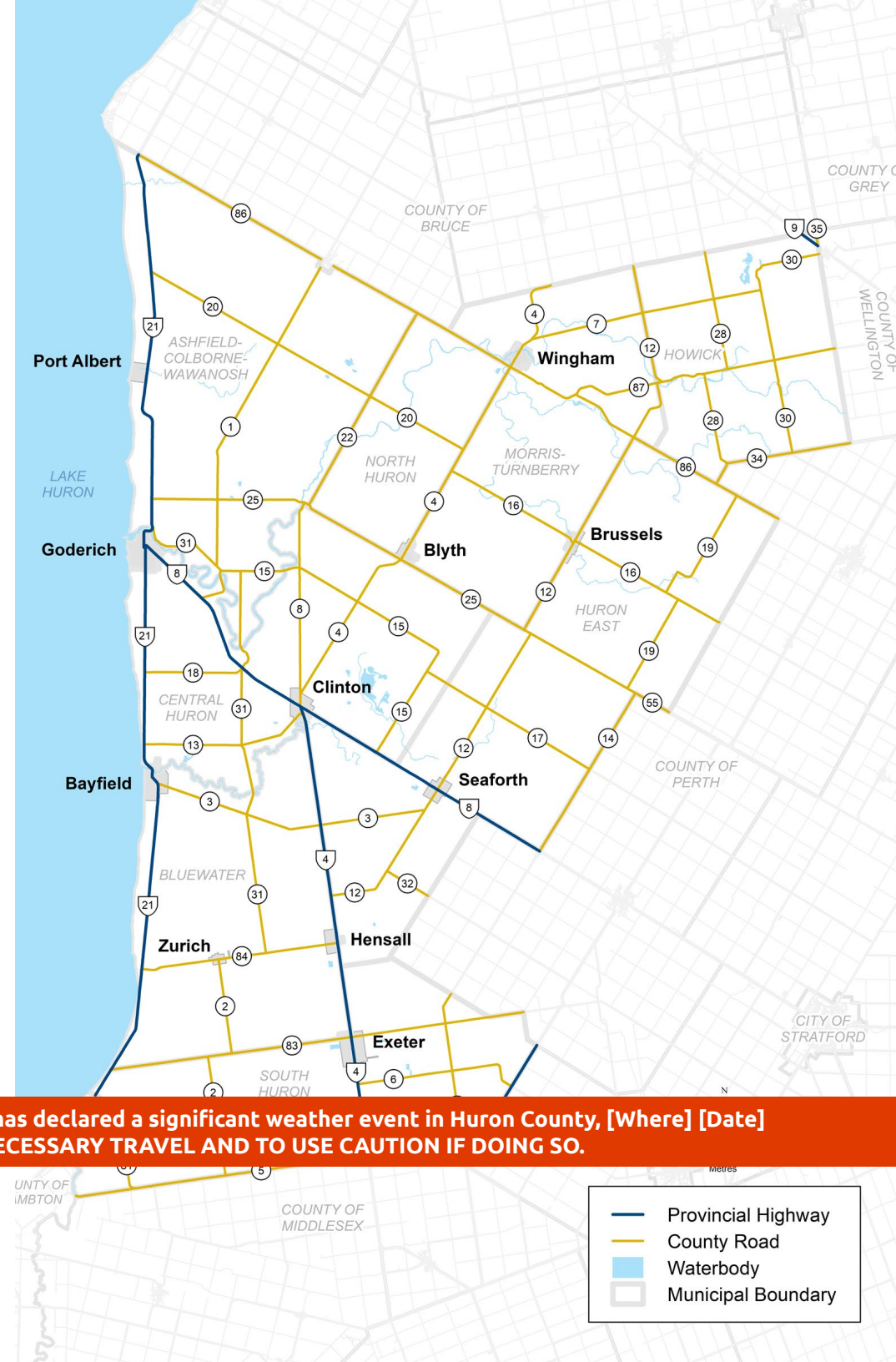
Huron County has three types of roads: Local Municipal (lower-tier), County (upper-tier), and Provincial (Ministry of Transportation). The County of Huron is responsible for County roads only.

When the County is experiencing weather that may affect its ability to maintain the County Roads at the service levels that road users would normally expect, the County of Huron will declare a “Significant Weather Event” for upper-tier roads.

Significant Weather Events

Typically, a Significant Weather Event Notice from the County of Huron would follow weather warnings issued by Environment Canada for the region. During this time, a banner will appear across the top of the County of Huron website providing notice: www.HuronCounty.ca

Please note that the County's Significant Weather Event Declarations do NOT indicate a closure of any road or an imminent closure of any road. Road closures and openings are issued by OPP.



EXAMPLE SIGNIFICANT WEATHER EVENT DECLARATION | Huron County has declared a significant weather event in Huron County, [Where] [Date] [Time] . USERS OF HURON COUNTY ROADS ARE ADVISED TO AVOID UNNECESSARY TRAVEL AND TO USE CAUTION IF DOING SO.

Emergency Preparedness is everyone's responsibility. Environment Canada, Ministry of Transportation, local law enforcement, County of Huron, local municipalities, and each individual resident has a role to play in keeping our roads and community safe. Let's work together to stay safe this winter season.



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[*www.HuronCounty.ca/emergency-management*](http://www.HuronCounty.ca/emergency-management)