



**Marion County**  
OREGON

**For immediate release:** December 23, 2008 11:30 a.m.

**Contact:** Dan Estes, (503) 588-4108

## **Marion County Emergency Operations Center Update**

SALEM – The Marion County Emergency Operations Center (EOC) has been activated for the second day, helping to coordinate recovery efforts for the severe winter storm that has hit across Willamette Valley.

Tanya Beard, EOC Director, would like citizens to know that crews for Marion County are working around the clock in conjunction with public safety and utilities companies to clear roads and restore power to those areas affected.

“These widespread situations require a great deal of patience,” Beard said. “PGE is inundated with calls for every outage and they are fixing them in a prioritized manner. We need people to be patient and to let the PGE crews do their jobs.”

Warming centers for those people who have lost power are being set up in the Salem and Silverton areas. In Salem, the Union Gospel Mission, the Salem Transit Mall, Lancaster Mall, Salem Center Mall and Salem Library (from 10am-6pm) are open as daytime shelters. In the Silverton area, the Silverton Hospital is open as a warming center. People are encouraged to bring food and water for themselves if going to a warming center.

For those people who need to leave their homes, Beard recommends they keep an emergency kit with food, water and a blanket in your vehicle.

For those people choosing to shelter in place, Beard encourages them to follow some basic safety tips, especially if there is a power outage:

- Don't warm yourself in a running automobile if in an enclosed space, like a garage.
- Don't heat your home with a charcoal barbecue. Carbon Monoxide is a silent killer.
- Make sure your pets have food and unfrozen water.
- Check on your neighbors, especially the elderly or the medically fragile.
- Be extremely careful when using candles or any open flames.

###