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Press Release

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[MTA Headquarters](#)

IMMEDIATE

Preparing for This Weekend's Snow Storm

Snow Fighting Equipment in Place; Some Weekend Work Canceled

The MTA is preparing for this weekend's anticipated snow storm, forecast to bring up to six inches of snow to parts of the metropolitan area. Personnel are being deployed, snow-fighting equipment is being prepared to keep rails free of ice and snow, and chains are being put on bus tires. All preparations are being made to ensure safe travel across the region.

We expect to run normal Saturday service on all MTA services tomorrow morning, but please monitor www.mta.info as well as media reports for the latest service update. Customers are also urged to utilize the MTA's new [Winter Weather Guide](#) that explains possible service adjustments for all MTA agencies during inclement weather. This service poster is available for viewing online and posted in subway and rail stations.

"Our goal is to provide service as long as it is safe for our customers, employees and equipment," said MTA Chairman and CEO Joseph J. Lhota. "Our dedicated employees are set to work hard throughout the weekend in order to minimize service disruptions, but customers should utilize our website and media to learn about any potential impacts on service."

NYC Transit Subways and Buses

Additional personnel will be brought in for snow fighting duty, the Incident Command Center will be up and running, and Local Storm Fighting Centers will be manned and activated.

Some weekend work has been canceled, however, the critical capital work being performed in the Steinway Tube will continue as planned, so 7 line riders should be mindful that planned service diversions remain in effect, meaning that N and Q line service is the best way to travel from Queens Plaza to Manhattan and shuttle bus service will be making the connection between Vernon-Jackson and Hunters Point Ave. stations and Queens Plaza.

The subway system's fleet of snow fighting equipment has been fueled, prepped and deployed near outdoor locations historically vulnerable to heavy snowfall. In order to minimize the number of cars that will have to be stored over the weekend, full-length trains will operate on all lines. To the extent possible, out of service subway cars will be stored in underground locations throughout the system which may impact express service on certain lines.

Personnel will be putting chains on bus tires on overnight service, and tomorrow, deploy a combination of chained standard and articulated buses while substituting articulated with standard buses where appropriate. The Department of Buses will also be deploying snow crews and snow fighting equipment, and opening our situation room and satellite desks. We will be monitoring conditions as the storm progresses, to make ongoing route-by-route assessments about service.

Long Island Rail Road and Metro-North Railroad

The railroads will activate switch heaters, treat switches and third rails with anti-freeze agents and will have personnel stationed at key locations. Snow fighting material is dispatched to stations and crews will be positioned to be ready to clear platforms and stairways.

The railroads will also operate electric trains equipped with special scraper shoes to help reduce icing on the third rail and ensure that electric trains can draw their power properly. Employees are also spraying door panels with anti-freeze and purging air brake lines of moisture to prevent them from freezing. LIRR station waiting rooms will be kept open around-the-clock to provide shelter for customers waiting for trains.

Bridges and Tunnels

MTA Bridges and Tunnels has prepared and put into position its fleet of 102 snow-fighting trucks and other pieces of heavy equipment. In addition, MTA Bridges and Tunnels uses a system of technologically-advanced weather sensors to help keep motorists safe. All seven MTA bridges use small, rocket-like atmospheric weather sensors that deliver highly-accurate weather information, including wind velocity, wind direction, humidity and precipitation, via wireless communication. Other sensors are embedded in the roadway and on the snow-fighting trucks to monitor icing conditions on the roadways.

We urge all of our customers to take extra care when traveling during the storm. Stay clear of the platform edges, use handrails on staircases and walk carefully when entering or exiting stations and boarding or leaving trains and buses. Please allow extra time for travel during and immediately after the storm.