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Press Release

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NYC Transit

IMMEDIATE

MTA New York City Transit greets first round of winter weather with an impressive fleet of equipment and a service change

Posters in system let our customers know what to expect

With the forecast of this season's first winter storm, MTA New York City Transit's Departments of Subways and Buses are following well-established plans designed to keep the city's transit services operating smoothly. The timely deployment of personnel and equipment are key to maintaining service, but we have also created a Winter Weather Travel Guide <http://www.mta.info/service/ColdWeather.htm> aimed at keeping customers of all MTA services – New York City Transit, Metro-North Railroad, Long Island Rail Road and Bridge & Tunnels—in the know.

Preparing for this evening's anticipated Nor'easter and expected high tides, NYC Transit staged three pump trains and one work train with portable pumps to deal with possible flooding in locations throughout the system. No. 3 train service will terminate at 137 th Street and Broadway to allow for the erection of a portal wall to prevent water from entering the system at 148 th Street. Systemwide, additional personnel and specialized equipment will be on to respond to emergencies.

"The mass transit system is indispensable to the city on an around-the-clock basis and we invest heavily in the resources needed to keep those services running, especially during severe winter weather," said NYC Transit President Thomas F. Prendergast. "But we also monitor conditions closely and adjust our operations as needed while keeping our customers informed of any changes in service."

The Winter Weather Travel Guide is posted throughout the system and it lets MTA customers know just what to expect from their subway, bus, paratransit or commuter rail service should the weather turn nasty.

However, to keep foul weather service problems to a minimum, NYC Transit's Department of Subways has a fleet of snow-fighting and de-icing equipment designed to keep outdoor tracks, switches and third rails clear of snow and ice. The fleet includes super-powered snow throwers, jet-powered snow-blowers, and de-icing cars ready for immediate deployment whenever there is a prediction of snowy weather as well as switch and third rail heaters that help melt ice and snow before it accumulates at critical locations throughout our system.

Realizing that forecasts can quickly change, personnel in the Subway Rail Control Center and Bus Command Center continually monitor the U.S. National Weather Service and have direct access to a customized weather prediction service that provides regularly updated forecasts focusing on New York City. Adequate forewarning of a snow event allows us to decide whether to hold workers after their shifts and bring others in prior to the beginning of their scheduled workday.

When heavy winter weather is in the forecast, New York City Transit is put on a foul weather footing, with the agency fine-tuning the winter plan, and deploying employees and machines in order to keep subway and bus service operating as close to normal as possible.

While the subway portions of the system remain unaffected during snowstorms, there are nearly 220 miles of outdoor track throughout the four boroughs and NYC Transit has heavy-duty equipment designed to move snow, melt ice and do anything else that must be done to maintain service during inclement weather. Routes, such as the Sea Beach, Brighton and the Dyre Ave. Lines, are particularly vulnerable to heavy snow and freezing precipitation. These outdoor segments also are often affected by falling tree limbs, so crews with power saws are also nearby and ready to be called to action. When Wintery Weather is forecasted Staten Island Railway (SIR) fine tunes it's winter plan to ensure that every possible storm impact is combated.

SIR deploys employees and storm fighting equipment to move snow and melt ice on our 28.4 miles of track and 22 stations in order to maintain reliable train service during inclement weather.

One of our important goals is to keep customers well informed. The 'Service Status' for all MTA services is always available at www.mta.info. We also advise tuning into the local traffic and transit news broadcasts for updates, and follow us on Facebook and Twitter. We urge all of our customers to allow extra time and take extra care when traveling during inclement weather.