

WINTER WEATHER

Oconee, Pickens prep for season's first winter storm

Sleet, ice, snow expected

BY RILEY MORNINGSTAR
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SENECA — Oconee and Pickens County residents can begin to prepare for a weekend of wintry mix, according to a meteorologist with the National Weather Service in Greer.

"Everywhere outside the higher elevations, we have Oconee County getting less than an inch of snow," Scott Krentz said. "The sleet amount is mixed in with the snow amount.

A half-inch of sleet, and more snow up in the mountains. It's less snowy and more freezing rain and sleet."

Krentz said freezing rain could cause more issues than the predicted sleet.

"You'll probably get upwards of more than a tenth of an inch in freezing rain in the county," Krentz said. "That's going to create more issues than sleet and cause more power

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outages, downed trees and slick roads."

For Pickens County, Krentz said he expects a more snow-filled outlook.

"Pickens is more snow — the line of mix of precipitations stops at the end of Pickens County, and they will have more snow," he said. "In the southern parts of Pickens, maybe a couple inches of snow, and the upper parts will get four or five inches in the higher terrain area of Pickens. We really don't foresee any freezing rain

in Pickens County. Oconee will have more ice."

Krentz also said that the combination of sleet and freezing rain will cause roads to "become hazardous."

"There'll be a combination of sleet or freezing rain before you get snow, and the roads will certainly become hazardous, and the snow on top makes it worse," Krentz said. "Make sure you have enough food and water if power goes out. Get some dry food and canned food, stuff like that."

Duke Energy South

Carolina spokesman Ryan Mosier told The Journal officials are "closely monitoring the weather so we can make sure we have the right people in the right places to handle anything Mother Nature throws our way."

"We are prepared, and we encourage customers to prepare by checking their supply of flashlights, batteries, bottled water, non-perishable foods, medicines, etc.," Mosier said in an email. "Ensure a portable, battery-operated radio, TV or NOAA radio is on hand."