



**Town of Coventry Emergency Management**  
**60 Wood St., Coventry RI 02816**  
**401-826-1100 [401-825-6911 during EOC activation]**  
*Chief Benjamin H. Witt, Director*  
*Chief John H. Potvin, Deputy Director*  
*Chief Frederick J. Heise, (Ret), Assistant Director*

**For Immediate Release**  
**February 24, 2026 – 1600 Hours**

### **Blizzard 2026 EMA Briefing**

The Town of Coventry Emergency Management Agency has worked tirelessly to lessen the impacts of this historical blizzard for our residents. Town Council President John-Paul Verducci has declared a local state of emergency to assist the Town of Coventry with receiving additional resources as we move forward. RIEMA has held several meetings with Statewide Municipal Leaders and have been a phenomenal resource for the Coventry EMA. Beyond, RIEMA we are in direct contact with RI Energy prioritizing needs and working to have power restored quickly to our residents.

On day one of the storm, we had to prioritize emergency response with the added difficulties of several EMS/Fire Department Rescue units stuck in the snow, white out conditions for our plow operators and impassable roads for our police patrol units. The snowfall and strong winds added up to extremely dangerous conditions for our first responders and DPW crews.

Today, on day two of the storm, we were able to focus on power restoration and snow removal on our local roadways. RI Energy has been extremely responsive and we were able to prioritize a number of Coventry Housing Units that lost power overnight. The power for those elderly and special needs residents has been restored. Additionally, power is being restored in several areas with a number of RI Energy crews working in town.

#### **Power Outages**

The Coventry EMA will continue to work with RI Energy until power is restored to all residents.

#### **Snow Removal**

The Coventry Department of Public Works continues to work full speed ahead on snow plowing and removal efforts throughout the town. We have requested front-end loaders, heavy dump trucks and heavy snow plows from RIEMA to assist our local operators. These resources have been requested by most cities and towns in the state so they may be limited.

### **Warming Centers and Red Cross Shelter**

The Coventry Police Department building remains open as a warming station.

Additionally, our residents have the Red Cross Shelter located at the West Warwick Senior Center, Factory St., West Warwick available to them. The police department will be able to arrange transportation for residents in need of those options.

### **Town and State Offices Open**

The Town of Coventry and State of Rhode Island offices will be open tomorrow, Wednesday, February 25, 2026.

### **Delayed Town Services**

There will be no trash removal tomorrow as the DPW crews continue to plow our local roadways.

### **Schools**

Schools in the Town of Coventry will be closed tomorrow.

### **Parking Ban**

The parking ban throughout the town has been extended through Wednesday, February 25, 2026 at 4 PM.

### **Travel Ban**

The State of Rhode Island has lifted the travel ban.

### **Continued Safety**

We ask that our residents please check on their elderly neighbors who may need assistance during this time of storm recovery.

We urge residents to use care with power generators and snow blowers. Keep them outdoors and away from windows and doors to prevent carbon monoxide poisoning.

Stay clear and report any downed wires to the police or fire departments who will report that hazard to RI Energy.