Sheriff issues weather alert *Editor's note: the following release was issued Monday by Brown County Sheriff John Merchant:*

It appears very likely that our first significant winter storm is upon us. Heavy snow is predicted later today on into Tuesday. While snowfall amounts vary, we do have a arctic front that will be moving our way later in the week and another chance at significant snowfall. With heavy snowfall predicted and then zero or below wind chills, this combination can be very severe.

When the full effects of the storm take place, I am asking that residents take precautions before this happens, to keep not only yourselves, but your families safe,and others as well. If you do not have to travel or be out in the storm, please stay home. Make sure to get your needed supplies, groceries, medications, formula, fuel etc now instead of waiting until the last minute.

With the zero or below temperatures coming in later in the week, make sure to check on your family, friends and neighbors, especially if they are elderly, handicapped or disabled.

Make preparations for your outside pets, have adequate shelter food and water at all times. Straw and hay make the best bedding instead of blankets.

The basement of the Sheriff's Office will be open for shelter should this storm cause power outages that would place residents at risk. We will have other options available should anything be widespread. Please do not travel if you do not have to during the storm and contact your local law enforcement or Sheriff's Office if you have questions. We will update everyone when we have more information.

Many Signals Communcations