Coram, NY - With the National Weather Service announcing a winter storm watch is in effect for Suffolk County from Sunday evening, February 1, through Monday afternoon, the Brookhaven Highway Department is cancelling Groundhog Day at the Brookhaven Wildlife and Ecology Center. Highway Superintendent Daniel P. Losquadro was going to announce Holtsville Hal's famous prediction live at approximately 7:20 a.m. on Tuesday, February 2. However, in the best interest of public safety Superintendent Losquadro is asking residents to remain off the roads. The National Weather Service is reporting possible snow accumulations of up to five inches with a wintry mix of freezing rain and snow throughout the day on Monday, February 2.

"While it is disappointing I will not be able to share Hal's famous forecast live with residents this year, the public's safety always comes first," Superintendent Losquadro said. "Our crews will be out working tirelessly during this storm and we will not stop until the cleanup is finished."

Although Groundhog Day has officially been cancelled, it does not mean Hal is not making a prognostication.

"Residents can rest assure we did not wake Hal from his slumber underground for no reason," Superintendent Losquadro said. "There will be a few highway employees at the Ecology Site caring for the animals who will check in with Hal to see if he sees his shadow. I will be sharing this information after the Highway Department is finished with its cleanup operations. With the recent weather Brookhaven has been receiving, hopefully Hal will not see his shadow and we will have an early spring."

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