

# PRESSRELEASE

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## For Immediate Release

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**Date:** January 21, 2011  
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### **CITY OFFICIALS PREPARE FOR THE FORECASTED COLD WEATHER**

**Michigan City, IN** --- Mayor Chuck Oberlie and John W. Jones, Director of Emergency Management, issued the following statement today:

Citizens are being warned to avoid prolonged exposure to the elements today and through this weekend. Forecasted temperatures combined with wind chill factors are predicted to be near or below zero beginning Friday through Sunday. Wind gusts of up to 25 mph Friday morning will produce wind chills near -15 degrees.

The Michigan City Police Department will be vigilant as they patrol the streets for homeless people and anyone who needs to be sheltered from the cold. The Michigan City Police Department has been designated as a warming shelter for this weekend to accept anyone seeking shelter from the cold. Any citizen who experiences a heat outage and doesn't have a warm place to go should contact the Michigan City Police Department on their non-emergency number (874-3221) for assistance.

The Michigan City Police Department in cooperation with the American Red Cross and Emergency Management will continue to monitor the needs of citizens seeking shelter and additional weekend shelters may be opened depending on demand for such services. Landlords are urged to check on their tenants, especially the elderly to make sure heating sources are working properly. During the work week, the Senior Center and City Hall will serve as warming centers for those people seeking relief from the cold weather. The Senior Center hours of operation are 8:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. and City Hall is open to the public from 8:00 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Mayor Oberlie issued the following tips to avoid and reduce the risk of injury from cold conditions:

- Plan to stay indoors and make ventures outside brief if necessary.
- Cover all exposed parts of the body and try to stay dry.
- Wear layers of loose-fitting clothing, hats and gloves.
- Stay in contact with neighbors and the elderly; checking on their welfare often
- Eat regular meals and high protein snacks like nuts. Food provides the body energy for producing its own heat.
- Keep your vehicle's gas tank near full and have extra blankets, food and prepare a winter storm survival kit for your car.

For more tips on safe guarding your family from cold winter weather visit the National Weather Services website at <http://www.weather.gov/iwx> or the American Red Cross at <http://www.redcross.org/services/disaster/keepsafe>