

PRESSRELEASE

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For Immediate Release

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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 week. Forecasted temperatures just above zero combined with wind chill factors as low as -15 degrees below zero are forecasted for Tuesday night through Thursday.

Warming shelters will be available everyday while the cold remains in our area. 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 building has been designated as a warming shelter 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.

Additional shelters open on a daily basis will be located at the Senior Center, City Hall, and the Police and Fire Training Center located at 2510 E. Michigan Blvd. 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. The Training Center is open Monday through Friday from 7:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. The Michigan City Police Department is open 24 hours a day, every day of the week. Landlords are urged to check on their tenants; especially the elderly to make sure heating sources are working properly. Warming center public needs will be assessed and additional warming centers will be opened as needed. 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 Service's website at <http://www.weather.gov/iwx> or the American Red Cross at <http://www.redcross.org/services/disaster/keepsafe>