

# PRESSRELEASE

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## For Immediate Release

**Date:** January 12, 2009  
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Mayor Chuck Oberlie and John Jones, Emergency Management Director issued the following statement:

“The National Weather Service has issued a Winter Storm Watch for Monday evening into Tuesday evening and is further predicting near blizzard like conditions for Monday evening into Tuesday evening with 3 to 5 inches of new fallen snow and wind gusts up to 35 mph. The winds coupled with the new snow and snow already on the ground will make travel hazardous with occasional white out conditions and drifting snow. The snow event will be further exacerbated by a week of plummeting temperatures and wind chill factors well below zero.”

The Mayor and the City's Public Safety team has planned for the week long weather event and has issued the following statements aimed at safeguarding the public:

“Phase II (2) snow removal condition, which starts at noon Monday will continue through noon on Tuesday. A Phase II Snow Removal Condition places a parking ban on both sides of all identified snow routes and on the south and east sides of all other remaining streets. Residents should tune into the local media outlets for further information. At 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, the City will revert to a Phase I and remain under a Phase I until further notice.”

Warming Shelters will be open all week at the following locations:

City Hall, 100 East Michigan Blvd. M-F, 08:30A.M. until 4:30 p.m.  
Senior Center ADD HOURS (closed when Michigan City Area Schools are closed)---

The La Porte County American Red Cross Building  
113 Warren Road, Bus route #1, Michigan City  
(219) 874-4247  
Monday 8:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m.

Beginning Tuesday, January 13, 2009, the Red Cross Warming Shelter will be open 24 hours through Saturday Morning.

Anyone who experiences a heat outage can come to one of the warming shelters listed. In case of loss of heat to your home and no transportation is available, residents should call the Michigan City Police Department for assistance at 874-3221. If coming to the overnight shelter, please bring a sleeping bag or blankets and a pillow, if possible.

Travel during the very cold weather should be limited to necessary travel only and commuters should heed the following suggestions:

Make sure your gas tank is topped off. Take extra clothing and blankets in the car as well as water, snacks, and needed medications. To assist in case of an emergency a flashlight, flares or other lighted warning devices should always be maintained in the auto.

Residents are asked to look in on their neighbors during this challenging weather and to monitor local media for changing conditions.

Finally, the city Street Department will begin using a salt and sand mixture today to better combat the expected ice conditions.