

Anne Arundel County Office of Emergency Management



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NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release: January 25, 2021

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Excessive Cold Prompts Opening of Warming Centers

Anne Arundel County will open warming centers during the overnight hours of 9:00 pm to 9:00 am on Monday, January 25, 2021, and Tuesday, January 26, 2021, as well as from 9:00 pm on Wednesday, January 27, 2021 through 9:00 am on Sunday, January 31, 2021, in response to extremely cold forecast temperatures. The National Weather Service is currently forecasting prolonged subfreezing wind chill values during this time frame. The following locations will be available to provide warming relief:

Anne Arundel County Police will designate District Station Community Rooms at the following precincts as warming centers during the overnight hours of 9:00 pm to 9:00 am on Monday, January 25, 2021, and Tuesday, January 26, 2021, as well as from 9:00 pm on Wednesday, January 27, 2021 through 9:00 am on Sunday, January 31, 2021:

- Northern District: 939 Hammonds Lane, Baltimore
- Eastern District: 204 Pasadena Rd, Pasadena
- Western District: 8273 Telegraph Road, Odenton
- Southern District: 35 Stepneys Lane, Edgewater

All centers are accessible and have water and restroom facilities. Medical care is not available and anyone experiencing or observing a medical emergency should call 9-1-1. Pets are not allowed in any warming centers. Accommodations will be made for service

animals. Children must be accompanied by an adult at all times. COVID-19 guidance must be adhered to including social distancing and wearing face coverings.

The Office of Emergency Management encourages residents to exercise caution during extremely cold temperatures. Whether inside or outside, cold weather can be dangerous to those who are not prepared to properly handle it.

Advanced hypothermia (decreased core body temperature) can be accompanied by stiffness, excessive shivering, confusion, slurred speech, numbness, or a weak pulse. Watch for changes in levels of consciousness and motor coordination, indicated by stumbles, mumbles, fumbles, and grumbles. Symptoms of frostbite (skin damage due to cold temperatures) include gradual numbness, pale or purple skin, hard (wooden) skin, or a tingling or burning feeling in the impacted area. Call 9-1-1 if you or someone you know may be suffering from hypothermia or frostbite.

Children, older adults, and people with poor circulatory systems are at particular risk for hypothermia or frostbite. The Department of Health offers the following tips to help residents cope with winter conditions when outside:

- Layer your clothing to have more flexibility and control over how warm you stay. Avoid cotton clothing for winter activities.
- Prepare for the unexpected. Most hypothermia cases occur due to an unexpected change in the weather or temperature.
- Wear a warm hat; up to 50 percent of body heat is lost through the head.
- Avoid getting wet when the temperature dips.
- Wear waterproof boots or shoes to keep your feet dry.
- Drink plenty of water. Avoid nicotine, caffeine, and alcohol.

Residents should also be aware of the risks cold weather poses when inside homes and buildings. The Anne Arundel County Fire Department offers the following tips to help residents remain safe in their homes during cold conditions:

- Store several days' worth of non-perishable food and bottled water.
- Keep several days' worth of medications.
- Keep fireplaces and wood-burning stoves clean.
- Never leave space heaters on and unattended.
- Ensure smoke and carbon monoxide detectors are operating properly.
- Check on older adults and neighbors and relatives with disabilities.

In accordance with § 12-4-809. Severe weather emergencies and alerts, the County Executive has issued a Severe Weather Animal Alert. For more information please visit Anne Arundel County Animal Care & Control's website at <http://www.aacounty.org/departments/animal-control> or visit their page on Facebook. At

risk individuals seeking warmth with concerns for their pets should contact Animal Care & Control (410) 222-8900 during normal business hours.

Anyone needing special accommodations must contact Kasey Thomas at 410-703-4915 or emthom22@aacounty.org. TTY users, please call via Maryland Relay 7-1-1. All materials are available in an alternative format upon request.

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