

Daniel P. Vrakas
County Executive



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Safe Places To Warm-Up During Severe Weather

Waukesha, Wis. – Dangerously cold winter weather will soon be here. Households experiencing heat loss, the homeless, stranded motorists and individuals burdened with other emergency situations can take comfort in Waukesha County’s severe weather planning efforts.

Partnering with various social service agencies, like that of homeless shelters, the American Red Cross in Southeastern Wisconsin– Waukesha Regional Office and law enforcement agencies, Waukesha County created a network of providers to minimize potentially life threatening weather-related circumstances in the community.

County Executive Dan Vrakas said, “Having a system to help protect people from serious weather conditions is critical. In order to minimize the risk factors associated with our severely cold winter weather, we have collaborated with law enforcement agencies, local units of government and human service organizations to provide safe places to warm-up. “

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“Safe Places To Warm-Up During Severe Weather,” continued...

When faced with severe weather emergencies, individuals and families in need of assistance should contact 2-1-1/First Call For Help, a 24-hour information and referral helpline coordinated by the Mental Health Association in Waukesha County. By dialing 2-1-1 or (262) 547-3388 on a local telephone or cellular phone, callers will be connected to referral specialists that will provide information regarding emergency shelters, reception centers and other agencies providing assistance. Reception centers provide temporary places where people can go to warm up and get food, whereas shelters also provide longer term over night sleeping arrangements.

To ensure that people receive the help they need, bed space in area shelters will be monitored continually. If local needs exceed current capacity, the American Red Cross will assist with opening and managing pre-designated church-based shelters or reception centers.

For more information on Waukesha County’s Severe Weather Plan, please call the Office of Emergency Management at (262) 548-7580 or (262) 896-8292.

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