


CITY OF CORPUS CHRISTI

CORPUS CHRISTI FIRE DEPARTMENT

TO: Peter Zaroni, City Manager
FROM: Brandon Wade, Fire Chief 
COPY: Executive Team
SUBJECT: Warming Center Activation Plan & Homelessness Coordinator Update
DATE: December 3, 2025

As we move into the colder months, this provides an outline of the City's guidelines for activating Daytime Warming Centers and Emergency Refuge Centers (ERCs) for the 2025-2026 winter season. The City's warming center guidelines cover six types of cold weather events established by the National Weather Service: Freeze Watch/Warning, Cold Weather Advisory, Extreme Cold Watch/Warning, Ice Storm Warning (no Watch), Freezing Rain Advisory, and Frost Advisory. Below are the details for each of the six types of winter events, as well as the City's guidelines for each. Most of the National Weather Service trigger temperatures are absolute as opposed to wind chill or feels-like temperatures. However, services may be activated even if absolute temperatures or advisories are not reached.

Frost Advisory: This occurs when the absolute temperature is expected to fall to a range of 36 degrees Fahrenheit to 32 degrees Fahrenheit.

- The City should support nonprofit-operated overnight shelters.
- City encourages people who need to warm up to use City libraries or senior centers during normal business hours.
- Free transportation provided by RTA to the warming centers, if approved by RTA.

Freeze Watch/Warning: Issued any time when absolute temperatures are expected to fall to 32 degrees or less for 2 or more hours across a widespread area. A Watch is issued when these conditions are expected in the next 24-48 hours.

- Depending on the severity and duration, a City-operated ERC may be recommended.
- City encourages people who need to warm up to use City libraries or senior centers during normal business hours.
- Free transportation provided by RTA to the warming centers, if approved by RTA.

Cold Weather Advisory: Issued any time when [wind chill] temperatures are less than or equal to 25 degrees for at least 2 hours are expected across a widespread area.

- Depending on the severity and duration, a City-operated ERC may be recommended.

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- City encourages people who need to warm up to use City libraries or senior centers during normal business hours.
- Free transportation provided by RTA to the warming centers, if approved by RTA.
- Reverse Alert and Media Release issued.

Extreme Cold Watch/Warning: Issued within 36 hours of occurrence when [wind chill] temperatures are less than or equal to 15 degrees for at least 2 hours are expected across a widespread area. A Watch is issued in the next 24-48 hours.

- A City-operated ERC is recommended.
- Free transportation provided by RTA to the warming centers, if approved by RTA.
- Reverse Alert and Media Release issued.

Freezing Rain Advisory - Less than 1/8 inch of ice accretion due to freezing rain.

- Depending on the severity and duration, a City-operated ERC may be recommended.
- Free transportation provided by RTA to the warming centers, if approved by RTA.
- City encourages people who need to warm up to use City libraries or senior centers during normal business hours.

Ice Storm Warning (no Watch) - Greater than 1/8 inch of ice accretion due to freezing rain; freezing rain is the predominant hazard.

- A City-operated ERC is recommended.
- Free transportation provided by RTA to the warming centers, if approved by RTA
- Reverse Alert and Media Release issued.

Daytime Warming Centers

The City will offer Daytime Warming Centers, which are free and open to the public. Below is the list of locations and hours of operation. Hours may be extended during extreme weather events.

- Owen R. Hopkins Library 3202 McKinzie Rd 361-826-2350
(Open Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday)
- Ben F. McDonald Library 4044 Greenwood Dr 361-826-2356
(Open Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday)

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- Anita & W.T. Neyland Library 1230 Carmel Pkwy 361-826-2370
(Open Tuesday and Wednesday)
- Janet F. Harte Library 2629 Waldron 361-826-2310
(Open Tuesday and Wednesday)
- Dr. Clotilde P. Garcia Library 5930 Brockhampton Dr 361-826-2360
(Open Tuesday and Wednesday)
- La Retama Library 805 Comanche St 361-826-7055
(Open Tuesday and Wednesday)
- Oveal Williams Senior Center 1414 Martin L. King Dr 361-826-2305
(Open Tuesday and Wednesday)
- Northwest Senior Center 9725 Up River Rd 361-826-2320
(Open Tuesday and Wednesday)
- Zavala Senior Center 515 Osage St 361-826-3099
(Open Tuesday and Wednesday)
- Greenwood Senior Center 4040 Greenwood Dr 361-826-1368
(Open Tuesday and Wednesday)
- Broadmoor Senior Center 1651 Tarlton St 361-826-3138
(Open Tuesday and Wednesday)
- Ethel Eyerly Senior Center 654 Graham Rd 361-826-2330
(Open Tuesday and Wednesday)
- Garden Senior Center 5325 Greely Dr 361-826-2345
(Open Tuesday and Wednesday)
- Lindale Senior Center 3135 Swantner Dr 361-826-2340
(Open Tuesday and Wednesday)

ALL TIMES AND DATES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE

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Emergency Refuge Center (ERC)

The City will work with The Salvation Army of the Coastal Bend, Good Samaritan Rescue Mission, Mother Teresa Shelter, and other local shelters to establish an ERC when conditions are met. If the shelters are not able to open overnight or exceed capacity, the City will work on establishing an ERC.

It is essential to note that each event is unique; therefore operations depend on the severity and duration of the weather. Considerations include, but are not limited to the following:

- Are local overnight shelters at or above capacity?
- Is the Salvation Army facility available for overflow?
- The severity and duration of the weather determine potential shelter overnight capacity and number of ERCs that may be required.

Homelessness Coordinator Update

The City's Unhoused Programs Administrator, Amanda Rodriguez, started her position on October 20. Currently, she is working on several items, including the following:

- Implementing state funding allocations for homeless services
- Developing staff training for Emergency Refuge Centers and participating in Emergency Refuge Center planning
- Increasing service provider collaboration for street outreach and service delivery coordination
- Tracking and disseminating opportunities for funding to the service provider network
- Developing a partnership for the submission of Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi's (TAMUCC) application to Texas Health and Human Services for the Coastal Bend Health & Housing Collaborative and for the implementation if funds are awarded
- Developing an evaluation program with TAMUCC faculty for students to study the effectiveness of the local homeless coalition model.

The Planning and Economic Development Department has had discussions with Dr. Scott of TAMUCC regarding the development of a program for MPA graduate students. Once developed, the program will provide specific goals and items that potential graduate students can work on during their coursework.

Pets

The Gulf Coast Humane Society may donate its services by hosting pets of residents as needed.

Transportation

The Office of Emergency Management (OEM) will coordinate with the CCRTA to provide transportation from city bus stops to the warming centers. The OEM will work with the CCRTA to provide the transportation at no cost.