

WINTER WEATHER RESPONSE PLAN

December 2025



City of Corpus Christi Cold Weather Protocol

Cold-related illnesses—such as hypothermia and frostbite—are more likely to occur during periods of low temperatures. Daytime Warming and Emergency Refuge Centers offer temporary relief and protection during episodes of extreme winter weather, including dangerously cold conditions. This presentation highlights key aspects of the plan.

The Office of Emergency Management determines that a need exists:



Is there a likelihood of a power outage for several days?



Are notifications about approaching winter storms, warnings, and wind chill advisories being sent through the National Weather Service?



Will the temperature be extremely cold?



Are the residents likely to use a warming center?

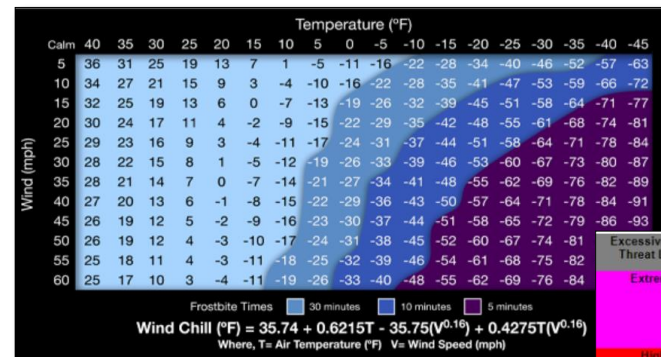


Are local shelters at or exceeding overnight capacity?

Key Winter Weather Criteria

The City's Winter Weather Response Plan takes into consideration winter weather criteria provided by the National Weather Service in Corpus Christi.

Wind Chill Chart



Excessive Threat Cold Levels

Excessive Cold Threat Level	Threat Level Descriptions
Extreme	"An Extreme Threat to Life and Property from Excessive Cold." Near-record to historic freeze producing temperatures less than 24°F. OR, a Wind Chill Warning in effect for dangerous wind chills below 12°F. OR, a Winter Storm Warning in effect for significant winter precipitation with snow accumulations greater than 0.50" or sleet accumulation greater than 0.25" or ice accretion on trees/power lines greater than 0.25" or ANY ice accretion on roadways.
High	"A High Threat to Life and Property from Excessive Cold." Hard freeze conditions with temperatures between 24°F-21°F for two or more hours. OR, a Wind Chill Warning in effect with lowest wind chills between 12°F-20°F. OR, a Winter Weather Advisory in effect for snow accumulation of 0.10" to 0.50" or sleet accumulation of 0.10" to 0.25" or ice accretion on trees/powerlines less than 0.25" or glaze of ice on bridges and overpasses.
Moderate	"A Moderate Threat to Life and Property from Excessive Cold." A Frost Advisory in effect with widespread frost coverage greater than 55% within a defined area. OR, freeze conditions with temperatures between 28°F-32°F for two or more hours. OR, a Wind Chill Advisory in effect with lowest wind chills between 21°F-28°F. OR, a Winter Weather Advisory in effect for snow accumulations less than 0.10" or sleet accumulations less than 0.10" AND no ice accumulation.
Low	"A Low Threat to Life and Property from Excessive Cold." Areas of frost with coverage 25%-54% within a defined area. OR, near freezing temperatures between 33°F-35°F. OR, Wind Chill Advisory in effect with lowest wind chills between 29°F-35°F. OR, flurries (very light snow) with no accumulation.
Very Low	"A Very Low Threat to Life and Property from Excessive Cold." Patchy frost with coverage less than 25% within a defined area. OR, temperatures between 36°F-39°F.
Non-Threatening	"No Discernable Threat to Life and Property from Excessive Cold." Cold season weather conditions are non-threatening.

- Freeze Watch/Warning
- Cold Weather Advisory
- Extreme Cold Watch/Warning
- Ice Storm Warning (no Watch)
- Freezing Rain Advisory
- Frost Advisory

NWS Winter Criteria



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

- Depending on the severity and duration, a City-operated Emergency Refuge Center may be recommended.
- Residents who need to warm up are encouraged to use City libraries or senior centers during normal business hours.



Cold

Cold Weather Advisory - Issued any time when apparent temperatures less than or equal to 25 degrees (feels like) for at least 2 hours are expected across a widespread area.

- Depending on the severity and duration, a City-operated Emergency Refuge Center may be recommended.
- Residents who need to warm up are encouraged 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.

NWS Winter Criteria



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

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



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 Emergency Refuge Center is recommended.
- Free transportation provided by RTA to the warming centers, if approved by RTA
- Reverse Alert and Media Release issued.

NWS Winter Criteria



Freezing Rain

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

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

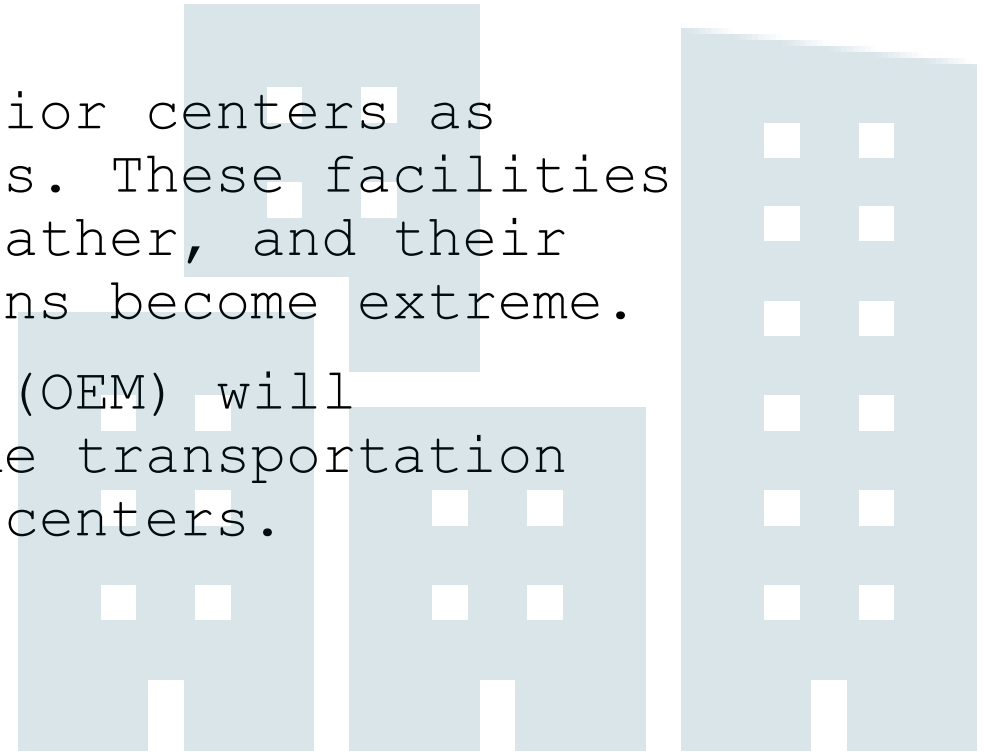


Frost advisory - This occurs when the temperature is expected to fall to a range of 36 degrees Fahrenheit down to 32 degrees Fahrenheit.

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

Daytime Warming Centers

- The city uses its libraries and senior centers as free, public daytime warming centers. These facilities are open to everyone during cold weather, and their hours may be extended when conditions become extreme.
- The Office of Emergency Management (OEM) will coordinate with the CCRTA to provide transportation from city bus stops to the warming centers.



Emergency Refuge Center

The City will coordinate with The Salvation Army of the Coastal Bend, Good Samaritan Rescue Mission, Mother Teresa Shelter, and other local shelters to activate an Emergency Refuge Center (ERC) when conditions warrant it. If these shelters cannot open overnight or reach capacity, the City will work to establish an ERC.

Each weather event is unique, so operations depend on the severity and duration of conditions. Factors considered include, but are not limited to:

- Whether local overnight shelters are at or above capacity
- Availability of the Salvation Army facility for overflow
- The severity and duration of the weather, which determine potential overnight shelter capacity and the number of ERCs needed

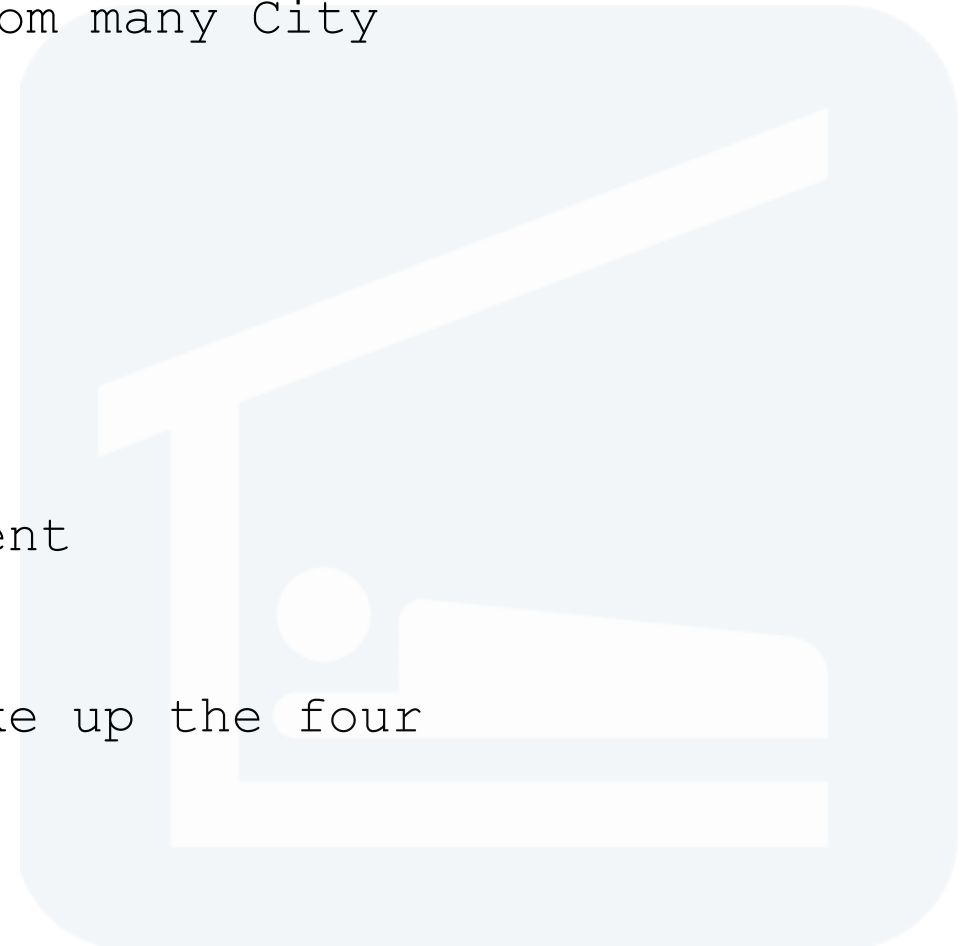
Emergency Refuge Center

Activating ECS includes direct support from many City Departments, including:

- CCFD
- CCPD
- Parks and Recreation
- Human Resources
- Planning & Economic Development Department
- Animal Care Services , and
- City staff from All Departments that make up the four Refuge Teams

Emergency Refuge Center Locations:

- Ben Garza Gym (Primary)



Homelessness Coordinator Update

Amanda Rodriguez, the City's Unhoused Programs Administrator, began 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.

Questions?

