

Residents for a Coldest Nights Warming Center Program (The Warming Group)

facebook.com/warmingcenter

Contacts: Janie Yett 831-429-6353 janeyett@igc.org

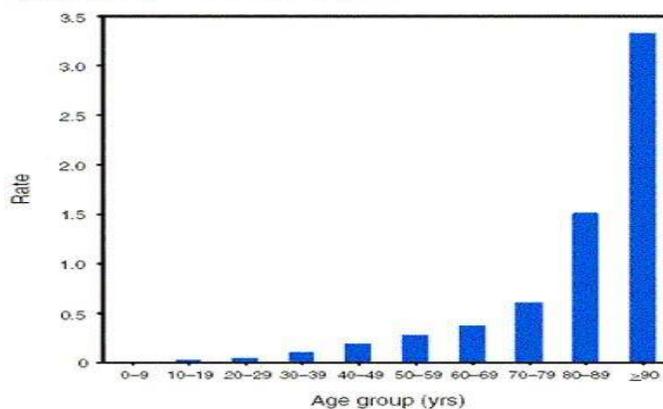
Brent Adams 831-234-9848 compassionman@hotmail.com



What the heck is a Warming Center Program?

A **warming center** is a short term emergency shelter that operates when temperatures or a combination of precipitation, wind chill, wind and temperature become dangerously inclement. Their paramount purpose is the prevention of death and injury related to exposure to the elements including acute trauma from falling objects such as trees. A more prevalent emergency which warming centers seek to prevent is **hypothermia**, the risk for which is aggravated by factors such as age, alcohol consumption, and homelessness.

FIGURE. Age-adjusted rate* of hypothermia-associated death, by age group — United States, 2001



* Per 100,000 population.

Activation:

Activation is generally a centralized decision based upon what is termed either an algorithm (which is based on a set of factors) or, in other jurisdictions, an Activation Trigger (such as a drop to a specific temperature). One common "alert status" model ranges from fair weather OUTLOOK status to STANDBY, WATCH and finally ACTIVATE.

Outreach:

Once a center site has been established, **staffed** and the **volunteer phone tree** has been activated, it is required to connect with the populations it intends to reach and persuade them to come in. A significant population is resistant to interaction with perceived "authorities" and others may not have sufficient contact with the system of care to be adequately aware of their options. **Centers often coordinate with outside programs.**

For communication of the availability of open centers, many coordinate with the Federally mandated 2-1-1 or the 3-1-1 phone information system. In Santa Cruz, 3-1-1 is currently unused.

Once opened and populated, they typically offer only the most bare-bones of service: a cot or floor pad and perhaps a bowl of hot soup. They are generally operated with one or more experienced professional staff person, due to the difficulties which untrained volunteers might encounter in dealing with the clientele.



List of Warming Centers:

Tucson, Arizona System 3 locations.

Udall Park Community Center

- City owned and run center

- People and pets welcome

- Cots, blankets, food and water will be provided, Tucson Fire officials say.

Pantano Christian Church

- cots, blankets food and water provided.

The Red Cross (Sothern Arizona Chapter) is working with Cochise County to open a Warming Center at Apache Middle School.

<http://www.kvoa.com/news/three-shelters-warming-center-to-open-their-doors-today/>

Lompoc, CA

- Warming Center at Bridgehouse Homeless Shelter
- Funded by Santa Barbara County and Lompoc First United Methodist Church. (a cooperation of agencies, churches and civic organization.
- Open Dec. 1 and as needed through March 31.
- Open when temperatures drop below 35 degrees or when there is at least a 40 percent chance of rain.
- “open door policy” to appeal to homeless people who might otherwise shun regular shelter. No ID required.
- Pets allowed.
- Seeking monitor staff volunteers.
- Food provided
- Showers provided

http://www.lompocrecord.com/news/local/article_439f91de-f79c-11df-ad71-001cc4c03286.html

Portland, Oregon Warming Center (This is somewhat similar to Santa Cruz winter shelter with some big exceptions).

- A collaboration btwn County Department of Human Services, Eastminster Presbyterian Church, and First United Methodist Church.
- Expands the capacity of the Portland shelter system.
- 7pm to 7am seven nights a week.
- No pre-screening.
- Access to Day Services and Regular Shelters when space becomes available.
- Free bus tickets to day services available.

http://web.multco.us/sites/default/files/dchs-community-services/documents/winshltman_aual_2010-2011_4.pdf

Portland Red Cross partners with City of Portland to staff Warming Centers.

https://volunteerconnection.redcross.org/?nd=intake&entry_point_id=369&unit_id=944&logout=1

Chicago Warming Centers

- The Chicago Department of Family and Support Services (DFSS) operates six

Warming Centers.

- Activated when temperatures dip below 32 degrees.
- A 3-1-1 phone system is in place for info about when and where centers are open.
- Additional facilities are opened as needed including Senior Centers, libraries, and Park District buildings.

http://www.cityofchicago.org/city/en/depts/fss/provdrs/emerg/svcs/dfss_warming_centers.html

Williamsburg, South Carolina.

- American Red Cross supports Williamsburg Emergency Management for the Homeless by providing cots and blankets as well as drinks and snacks for the warming center.
- Opened for two nights when temperatures dropped.

<http://www.redcross.org/news/press-release/sc/myrtle-beach/Red-Cross-Supporting-Williamsburg-Emergency-Management-Warming-Center>

Toledo, Ohio. American Red Cross Warming Centers

- Working with local emergency officials to open 3 Warming Center locations. (Family Center, Senior Center, UAW Union Hall.
- Activated when temperatures drop below freezing.
- Open for “anyone in need”
- People are encouraged to bring own blankets, pillows, and toiletries.

<http://www.redcross.org/news/article/oh/toledo/Red-Cross-Opens-Warming-Shelters>

Eugene, Oregon. Eagan Warming Center

- Hosted by a coalition of nonprofits, service providers, local government, and faith and social activist communities.
- Shelter for 50-70 homeless people.
- Shelters are “on-call” btwn Nov. 15 and March 31.
- Opens when temperatures drop to 28 degrees or below.
- 7pm- 8am
- Includes bedding and “supplies”
- Staff and volunteers trained in crisis response and accustomed to working with homeless individuals.
- Transportation to and from warming center provided whenever possible.
- Host Location Provides:
 - Ideally one large room and several smaller rooms to provide personal belonging storage.
 - Basic items such as trash cans with liners, bathrooms, tables, and chairs.
 - General liability coverage for the day the temporary shelter operates.
 - Principal contact person with knowledge of heating, lights etc.
- Code of Conduct: Keep center clean, no weapons, no drugs or alcohol, no violence,

no smoking inside center, guests are expected to be courteous to other guests and volunteers.

- Eugene, Oregon Warming Center Host Sites are 10 churches.

<http://eganwarmingcenter.com/home.html>

Strathroy, Ontario Canada (Just across boarder)

- At a local church
- Church members alerted at 3pm about temperature drop.
- Salvation Army brought food
- Firefighters brought 50 cots.

<http://www.lfpres.com/news/london/2010/12/14/16551251.html>

Fresno, California. Warming Center.

- 100 capacity. When center reaches capacity a second facility will be opened.
- Neighborhood Center managed by City of Fresno parks and recreation department.
- 8:30pm-6:30am
- Activated at prediction of 36 degrees or below.
- Free bus ride to and from warming center.

<http://www.fresno.gov/Government/DepartmentDirectory/ParksandRecreation/CommunityServices/FreezeRelief.htm>

Santa Barbara, California. Warming Center.

- 10 Emergency shelter locations.
- Open during "rain or severe weather conditions"
- Telephone info-line.
- Couples and pets allowed.

<https://www.facebook.com/FreedomWarmingCenter>





We agree that no one freezes to death in Santa Cruz.