



TOWN OF TEMPLETON
Select Board & Town Administrator's Office
160 Patriots Road ~ P.O. Box 620
EAST TEMPLETON, MASSACHUSETTS 01438
TEL: (978) 894-2755

Warming Center and EOC Partial Activation

Planning Meeting, 1230, 1 February 2023 via Zoom meeting

SITUATION

URGENT - WINTER WEATHER MESSAGE

Northern Worcester MA-Western Hampshire MA-
Western Hampden MA-Northern Middlesex MA-
As of 311 AM EST Wed Feb 1 2023

...WIND CHILL WATCH IN EFFECT FROM LATE THURSDAY NIGHT THROUGH SATURDAY AFTERNOON...

- * **WHAT...**Dangerously cold wind chills possible. Wind chills as low as 40 below zero.
- * **WHERE...**Western Franklin, Northern Worcester, Western Hampshire, Western Hampden and Northern Middlesex Counties.
- * **WHEN...**From late Thursday night through Saturday afternoon.
- * **IMPACTS...**The dangerously cold wind chills could cause frostbite on exposed skin in as little as 10 minutes.
- * **ADDITIONAL DETAILS...**In addition to the dangerously low wind chills, strong northwest winds may cause power outages Friday afternoon and evening.

MISSION

The Town of Templeton will partially activate its Emergency Operations Center (EOC) in accordance with its Emergency Management Plan in order to provide ready access to emergency management members to react to resident's requests for assistance and to stand up and occupy a minimum of one (1) warming center to provide 24-hr access to residents needing relief from the frigid weather. This partial activation shall commence on Thursday, 2 February 2023 at noontime and last until the last resident requires the service or noontime Sunday, 5 February 2023. Emergency notification messages will be transmitted to as many residents as the multiple communications methods provide.

EXECUTION

INTENT:

The decision to activate in any capacity will be made by a select group of town executive staff on 1 February 2023 after reviewing available weather predictions, risk mitigation measures, and available staff and resources. At a minimum, the level of support requires:

- a primary support facility that can accommodate ~20 residents (Senior center)
- A secondary/alternate support facility that can accommodate 20+ and up to but not including 100 residents (Narragansett School District facility TBD)

- the selected support facility must offer significant heating and refreshment,
- a command staff of ~2 (mobile EOC)
- a support staff of on-call 24hr on-site support
- sufficient maintenance and repair staff to react to support facility issues (this may also be via contract service).

TASK ORGANIZATION:

The Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) is the normal support staff that is alerted and managed by the primary or alternate Emergency Management Director. The EMD Director is the primary point of contact for this operation. This staff may be augmented with available town officers or vetted volunteers. Senior Services, Police and Fire, Department of Public Works, and School District agencies may also play a role in this support plan.

CONCEPT OF OPERATION:

The primary warming facility will be designated at the Templeton Community Senior Center; there is a possibility that the Town may request the support of the Narragansett School District to offer an additional warming center.

The town will send out alert messages of the impending weather and offered services no later than Thursday morning, 2 February 2023 with an additional message sent the evening of the same day. These initial messages will be sent to the community via the CODE RED system, the Senior Center distribution list, the town website and social media page, and the Narragansett Regional School District emergency notification system; any subsequent changes to the support plan will additionally be communicated to the public.

The warming center will be prepared, but not staffed until a need arises (manpower conservation measure). On order from the EMD Director, the EMD staff will move to occupy the senior center in order to provide a safe and warm space for residents requesting access. Any Templeton resident may call the posted and specified number (Rich Curtis 978-580-6620) and request instructions for where and how to proceed to the senior center. This service will be tentatively available no earlier than Thursday evening, 2 February 2023. In the event that residents contact or drive to an unoccupied senior center on their own, a sign will be placed on the front door of the senior center (Cindy Shea) indicating the instructions to call the EMD staff; the center will be then manned until unneeded.

The center will be staffed by EMD Staff, Senior Center Staff, or town officers/volunteers on a rotating shift as prescribed by the EMD Director/Staff (TBP). It is the intent of the town that the center will be available for 24hr operations while the frigid weather persists.

In the event that residents who opt to use the warming center must stay for a long-enough period of time necessitating a rest/sleep plan, the EMD Staff will have access to on-site sleeping cots and off-site wool emergency blankets, not: EMD staff when contacted will indicate that sleeping materials may be brought for use. In the event that the senior center holding capacity is no longer adequate (approx. 20-30 people+), the EMD Director will move to activate the Narragansett School Building resource. EMD Staff will then make a decision to reorganize personnel best fit to handle 1 or more locations.

The senior center has limited transportation abilities should residents need this level of service. If transportation is needed, the resident must indicate the need in the initial request for support to EMD Staff.

Light refreshments (coffee, water, soup, etc.) may be offered to the residents and EMD Staff utilizing warming center(s). Additional support will be provided on call and at the direction of the EMD r Senior Center Staff.

Any emergencies, extreme circumstances, or observed disturbance will be immediately communicated to the EMD Staff and Templeton Police and/or Fire. 911. Emergencies will be reported to executive staff, TA, or select board representative.

Operations would continue with staffing managed by the EMD Deputy Director until the need no longer exists or Sunday, February 5, 2023. Closing operations MUST include the final support staff providing cleanup assistance to return whatever facility was used to its normal operation AND configuration.

A final report of activities and number of residents supported will be prepared by the senior EMD Staff member available or directed by the EMD Director.

SUPPORT:

Facilities: EMD HQ and storage, Templeton Senior Center, on-call Narragansett School Building

Food & Drink: provided by senior center or food pantry

Sleeping Material: EMD provided cots (senior center), EMD-provide wool blankets (EMD HQ)

Comms Equipment: personal

Transportation: vans with driver provided by senior center

Repair Support: DPW and commercial contractors

COMMUNICATIONS AND STAFF:

EMD Director/Incident CDR: Rich Curtis (978) 580-6620

EMD Local Staff Lead/Deputy: Mike Dickson & Don Morin

TA: Adam Lamontagne, 413-552-6708

ATA: Holly Young, 978-894-2762, hyoung@templetonma.gov

Senior Center: Cindy Shea, cshea@templetonma.gov

SB Chair: Tim Toth, (978) 895-0087

PIO: Mike Currie, 617-549-5371, mcurrie@templetonma.gov

DPW Dir: Bob Szocik, (978) 939-3278

Health Services: Laurie Wiita, (978) 549-0139

PROPOSED CODE RED MESSAGE:

This is the Town of Templeton with an important emergency message. A severe weather condition is anticipated in the North Worcester County region this Friday through Sunday where daytime and nighttime temperatures could reach as low as 40 below zero. This temperature presents a potential life-threatening event for people, pets, and domestic animals. The Town will partially activate the Emergency Operations Staff to assist the community where possible and also open a warming center at the Community Senior Center at 16 Senior Drive in Baldwinville. Residents needing assistance may call 978-580-6620, that number again is 978-580-6620. The Templeton webpage and social media will also post messages and contact information. You may invite others to sign up for Code Red messages like this alert at the Town of Templeton website. Be Safe and Stay Warm.