

Press Release: 28th January 2019 at 17:00
Iroquois County Emergency Management Agency
Subject: Extreme Cold
For immediate release.



The Iroquois County Emergency Management Agency would like to caution residents concerning the impending extreme cold temperatures.

Starting Tuesday and lasting through Friday morning, temperatures will be life-threateningly cold. According to the National Weather Service, Iroquois County is in a wind chill warning, with factors reaching as low as -47 degrees F. Temperatures this cold can lead to rapid frostbite and hypothermia. People need to dress appropriately, wearing layers with coats and covering exposed skin, as well as bringing pets inside. If you do not need to go out, stay at home, and check on your neighbors.

Those intending on driving their vehicles need to check their battery, coolant, and tires, as well as have jumper cables and extra clothing and blankets in the car. Residents should also check their homes for safety, such as furnace units, chimneys, water pipes, and ensuring fire and carbon monoxide detectors are functioning. Heating homes with gas space heaters, grills, or ovens is not safe, and can lead to house fires and deadly carbon monoxide poisoning.

For local residents whose homes cannot keep up with the cold temperatures, the following warming centers are opening:

- Watseka Public Library at 201 South 4th Street in Watseka. Tuesday, Wednesday, & Thursday, 10 AM to 6 PM.
- Trinity Church at 1658 East Walnut Street in Watseka. Tuesday, Wednesday, & Thursday, 9 AM to 5 PM.
- Crescent City Community Center at 301 Main Street. Tuesday, Wednesday, & Thursday, 7 AM to 9 PM.
- St. Paul's Lutheran Church at 116 North Thomas Street in Gilman. Tuesday, Wednesday, & Thursday, 8 AM to 5 PM.
- Church of Christ at 103 South Street in Martinton. Tuesday evening through Friday morning, 24/7.

These warming shelters are open to anyone who needs a place to stay warm. They are not providing food, cots, or snacks. If you require transportation to a warming center, contact Show Bus at 1-800-525-2454.

Lastly, ice jams on local waterways could lead to localized flooding. If you observe an ice jam, please report to Iroquois County EMA at (815) 432-6997 or ema@co.iroquois.il.us.

"Be prepared. Respond without hesitation. Help recover."