

EMERGENCY COLD WEATHER SHELTER PLAN



In addition to Denver, Jefferson, and Adams Counties' respective cold weather sheltering services, the City of Westminster provides supplemental emergency sheltering in extreme cold weather conditions. The City will activate an emergency cold weather shelter when it is projected to be zero degrees Fahrenheit with or without windchill for 6 hours or more. Westminster's emergency cold weather shelter program operates in extreme cold weather situations to augment counties' services when residents who are not able to access them due to mobility challenges, availability or other extenuating circumstances. The City encourages residents to familiarize themselves with sheltering programs available in Adams and Jefferson Counties.

HOTEL AVAILABILITY

Historically, the City of Westminster has maintained informal just-in-time emergency shelter capability to assist stranded travelers or residents who may have lost heat during severe cold weather events. Available hotel rooms are the shelter of first resort for stranded travelers and those who have the resources to meet their own needs.

SHELTER BASICS



The Fire Department maintains a trailer with cots, blankets, and other basic shelter supplies for approximately 100 people. These supplies will be deployed to recreation facilities as directed.



The MAC is our primary emergency severe cold weather shelter. PRL facility supervisors are the on-scene supervisors of emergency cold weather shelter operations.



The City has contracted Bayaud Enterprises to provide a team of five staff to handle emergency severe cold weather shelter operations. This team will be notified 24-48 hours prior to activation and will maintain emergency severe cold weather shelter operations for a minimum of 48 hours once activated.



Fire and Police will support emergency severe cold weather shelter operations as needed to address health, safety, and security concerns.



Residents who are experiencing medical or mental challenges will be directed to the nearest emergency room (ER). In Westminster, residents will be directed to St. Anthony's North Family Medicine on 84th Avenue or St. Anthony's North Hospital at 144th Avenue and Huron Street. If someone is at the shelter with a health emergency, the Fire Department may transport them via ambulance to the hospital.



CONTINUUM OF COMPASSION

As part of our Continuum of Compassion, the City's homeless navigators offer hotel vouchers to people experiencing homelessness. When temperatures drop below 10°F, Westminster offers additional vouchers. The City's cold weather shelter is designed to provide additional housing capacity once the vouchers have all been used.