

HOWARD COUNTY GOVERNMENT “CODE BLUE” COLD WEATHER RESOURCES



“During prolonged periods of cold weather, we have an even greater need to provide for the most vulnerable members of our community. I ask that every resident share this information and be extra vigilant in looking out for our homeless sisters and brothers during these times.”

Calvin Ball, Howard County Executive

EMERGENCY SHELTERS ACTIVATED DURING ‘CODE BLUE’ PERIODS:

County officials from the Department of Community Resources and Services and the Health Department monitor the forecast and determine when a “Code Blue” response is necessary. At that time, the following facilities will be activated as cold weather shelters:

Grassroots Crisis Intervention Center

(overnight sheltering)
6700 Freetown Road, Columbia

Leola Dorsey Day Resource Center

(daytime warming)
10390 Guilford Road, Jessup

DROP IN AND WARM UP!

Howard County’s 50+ Centers are available to drop in and warm up during regular operating hours. For more information about programs and resources at 50+ Centers, visit <http://bit.ly/2iX84kX>.

The Bain 50+ Center

5470 Ruth Keeton Way, Columbia

East Columbia 50+ Center

6600 Cradlerock Way, Columbia

Elkridge 50+ Center

6540 Washington Boulevard, Elkridge

Ellicott City 50+ Center

9401 Frederick Road, Ellicott City

Longwood 50+ Center

6150 Foreland Garth, Columbia

Glenwood 50+ Center

2400 Route 97, Cooksville

North Laurel 50+ Center

9411 Whiskey Bottom Road, Laurel

Other facilities available for drop in and warm up during regular operating hours are Recreation and Parks Community Centers (<http://bit.ly/2BjYof2>) and Howard County Library System branches (<http://bit.ly/2BkH0H4>).

COLD WEATHER SAFETY TIPS

Colder weather often yields temperatures that can be dangerous after long periods of exposure, if proper precautions are not taken. Some of the dangers associated with winter weather include hypothermia, frostbite, carbon monoxide poisoning and injuries from heat sources.

Frostbite is the freezing and subsequent destruction of body tissue. The areas most likely to freeze are toes, fingers, ears, cheeks and the tip of the nose.

To protect yourself and your family in cold weather follow the below tips:

- ❄ Cover your head. You lose as much as 50 percent of your body heat through your head.
- ❄ Wear several layers of lightweight, loose-fitting clothing. The air between the layers acts as insulation to keep you warmer.
- ❄ Wear mittens rather than fingered gloves. The close contact of fingers helps keep your hands warm.
- ❄ Wear warm leg coverings and heavy socks, or two pairs of lightweight socks.
- ❄ Be alert to other common winter hazards, such as carbon monoxide (CO) and injuries from heat sources. CO is produced by small gasoline engines, stoves, generators, lanterns and gas ranges, or by burning charcoal and wood. This colorless, odorless gas can cause severe illness and death. Go to www.cdc.gov/features/copoisoning for CO poisoning prevention tips
- ❄ Equip your vehicles with items such as heavy blankets, water, nonperishable food, a flashlight and a snow shovel. More information about cold weather preparedness may be found at: emergency.cdc.gov/disasters/winter

REMEMBER YOUR PETS:

Howard County requires that animals housed outside ALWAYS have access to appropriate shelter, bedding and an unfrozen water. Dogs may not be tethered outside when not under direct supervision. Keep in mind, the requirements are the bare minimum. If it’s too cold for you, it’s probably too cold for your dog or cat. Howard County Animal Control urges everyone to bring their companion animals inside.

For safety tips on how to keep your pet safe during the cold winter months, such as cleaning snow and salt from their paws, legs and stomach, check out the ASPCA’s website at <http://bit.ly/1P9C7Ta>.

Anyone in need of shelter or other assistance should call the Grassroots hotline at 410-531-6677.