

Mayor Joe Hogsett offers tips and information as cold weather continues
Snow and below-freezing temperatures forecast through the holiday weekend

INDIANAPOLIS – Mayor Joe Hogsett issued a list of safety tips today as continued cold weather demands increased caution in Indianapolis.

“The New Year’s holiday is a time for reflection and celebration, but with the cold weather expected this weekend, we must also focus on taking precautions to stay safe and warm,” said Mayor Hogsett. “Plan ahead, dress for the weather, and check on your loved ones frequently to ensure all in our city have a safe and joyous holiday weekend.”

Ahead of the New Year’s weekend, Mayor Hogsett urges residents to plan ahead, leave plenty of time for holiday travel, and prepare for extreme cold on New Year’s Eve – dress warmly and have a plan for a safe ride home as cabs and ride-sharing services may be overwhelmed. Mayor Hogsett offers the safety tips below ahead of the forecasted extreme cold.

Heating your home:

- When using a space heater, remember to keep a clear three-foot perimeter, plug the space heater directly into a wall outlet, keep pets and children away from the heater, and never leave it unattended.
- Never use a stove, oven, or candle to heat your home.
- If using a wood-burning fireplace for warmth, check to see that the flue is open before lighting the fire, use a protective screen to keep children and pets away from the flame, and never leave the fireplace unattended when in use.
- Residents who have issues with heat protection should make plans to seek alternate overnight shelter.
- Make sure smoke detectors are in working order. If you need a smoke detector, please call IFD’s Fire and Life Safety Division at 317-327-6093.
- Be aware of the symptoms of carbon monoxide poisoning, including: weakness, dizziness, shortness of breath, and a dull headache. Exit your home and call 911 immediately if symptoms are detected.

Staying safe outdoors:

- Check the weather forecast frequently and dress accordingly. In the expected extreme cold over the holiday weekend, NOAA recommends wearing three or more layers, a warm hat and face mask, gloves, waterproof boots, and an outer layer that provides protection from the wind.
- When outdoors for an extended period of time, take frequent “warm up” breaks.
- Know the signs of frostbite and hypothermia and seek immediate medical attention if they are detected.

Vulnerable populations:

- Residents are encouraged to check on elderly or disabled family members and neighbors.
- Indianapolis’ warming centers are open and will accept any person in need. Residents may call 211 for help finding warm shelter.
- Citizens with disabilities or those who may need medical or health-related assistance during winter weather events should call 211.
- The Indianapolis Metropolitan Police Department, in partnership with Wheeler Mission and other local shelters and service providers, has activated the Winter Contingency for Indianapolis’ homeless population. IMPD and homeless outreach professionals are working

to connect residents currently experiencing homelessness with warming kits, warm shelter, and care.

Utilities:

- Any power outages should be reported to IPL immediately by calling 317-261-8111.
- Maintain a moderate temperature in your home or leave a slow drip on faucets to keep pipes from freezing.

Travel:

- Allow for extra time.
- Know what to expect on your route and plan accordingly, checking the weather forecast frequently.
- If you start sliding, turn slightly into the skid.
- Slow down and know when it's time to quit.

To report road issues on streets and thoroughfares, call the Mayor's Action Center at 317-327-4MAC or visit indy.gov/requestindy. Spot a problem on an interstate or highway? Those roadways are managed by INDOT – learn more by visiting www.in.gov/indot or report an emergency by calling 866-849-1368.

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