

Linn County Severe Weather Sheltering Plan

	Date	Change Made
Adopted:	5/22/18	NA
Update:		

Table of Contents

2	Plan Distribution and Review
3	Acronyms
3	Introduction
3	Emergency Shelter Resources
	Extreme Weather Response: Excessive Heat
	Extreme Weather Response: Excessive Cold
	Outreach to the Homeless Population in a Disaster
	Overflow Shelter Supplies
	Attachment A - Emergency Shelter Resources

Plan Distribution and Review

The plan will be shared with the Healthcare for the Homeless Committee. This committee will review the Linn County Severe Weather Sheltering Plan each April.

Acronyms

CDC	U. S. Centers For Disease Control and Prevention
EMA	Emergency Management Agency
EMS	Emergency Medical Services
EOC	Emergency Operations Center
NWS	National Weather Service
PIT	Point-in-Time

Introduction

Linn County has a network of sheltering options. Representatives from area shelters also serve on the Healthcare for the Homeless Committee. In 2014 a plan was developed in response to increase sheltering needs in severe cold. In 2017 the plan was expanded to include high heat sheltering needs.

Purpose

The purpose of the plan is to identify sheltering options in extreme weather within the Linn County Community. Extreme weather categories and related definitions have been taken from the National Weather Service (NWS). For additional information visit the NWS website www.nws.noaa.gov/om/cold/ww.shtml

Extreme Weather Response: Excessive Heat

In the event of extended excessive heat, an increased demand may be placed on emergency shelter resources in Linn County.

Excessive Heat Definitions

- **Cooling Center:** an air-conditioned public facility where people may go for relief during periods of extreme heat.
- **Heat Index:** The Heat Index (HI) or the "Apparent Temperature" is an accurate measure of how hot it really feels when the Relative Humidity (RH) is added to the actual air temperature. (Please see the heat index chart below.)
- **Excessive Heat Outlooks** are issued when the potential exists for an excessive heat event in the next 3-7 days. An Outlook provides information to those who need considerable lead time to prepare for the event.
- **Excessive Heat Watches** are issued when conditions are favorable for an excessive heat event in the next 24 to 72 hours. A Watch is used when the risk of a heat wave has increased but its occurrence and timing is still uncertain. A Watch provides enough lead time so that those who need to

prepare can do so such as cities officials who have excessive heat event mitigation plans.

- **Heat Advisory** is issued within 12 hours of the onset of extremely dangerous heat conditions. The general rule of thumb for this Advisory is when the maximum heat index temperature is expected to be 100° or higher for at least 2 days, and night time air temperatures will not drop below 75°; however, these criteria vary across the country, especially for areas that are not used to dangerous heat conditions. Take precautions to avoid heat illness. If you don't take precautions, you could become seriously ill or even die.
- **Excessive Heat Warning** is issued within 12 hours of the onset of extremely dangerous heat conditions. The general rule of thumb for this Warning is when the maximum heat index temperature is expected to be 105° or higher for at least 2 days and night time air temperatures will not drop below 75°; however, these criteria vary across the country, especially for areas not used to extreme heat conditions. If you don't take precautions immediately when conditions are extreme, you become seriously ill or even die.

NOAA's National Weather Service

Heat Index
Temperature (°F)

	80	82	84	86	88	90	92	94	96	98	100	102	104	106	108	110
40	80	81	83	85	88	91	94	97	101	105	109	114	119	124	130	136
45	80	82	84	87	89	93	96	100	104	109	114	119	124	130	137	
50	81	83	85	88	91	95	99	103	108	113	118	124	131	137		
55	81	84	86	89	93	97	101	106	112	117	124	130	137			
60	82	84	88	91	95	100	105	110	116	123	129	137				
65	82	85	89	93	98	103	108	114	121	128	136					
70	83	86	90	95	100	105	112	119	126	134						
75	84	88	92	97	103	109	116	124	132							
80	84	89	94	100	106	113	121	129								
85	85	90	96	102	110	117	126	135								
90	86	91	98	105	113	122	131									
95	86	93	100	108	117	127										
100	87	95	103	112	121	132										

Likelihood of Heat Disorders with Prolonged Exposure or Strenuous Activity

- Caution
- Extreme Caution
- Danger
- Extreme Danger

Excessive Heat Readiness Stage

This stage does not call for any operational changes by the shelter. This stage is standard operations. If the weather outlook projects potential excessive heat, the shelter may want to consider the following activities.

- Reach out to other shelters to confirm contacts (to include a 24/7 contact) are accurate
- Verify supplies are available for increased population
- Ensure shelter programs are aware of available cooling sites.
- Verify the number of weather overflow cots available and notify Shelter Services.

Heat Watch Stage

In addition to points noted in the Readiness Stage, consider the points below.

- Confirm Linn County Emergency Management Agency (Linn EMA) is working on updated list of cooling center options
Note: These centers are locations people can go during high heat events. The locations are typically public locations already open such as libraries.
- When available promote cooling center options as appropriate through shelter message networks
Note: other community partners such as public health will be utilizing social media and other methods to share cooling center information
- Review basic heat illness prevention measures provided by IDPH and CDC.
- Verify the number of weather overflow cots available and notify Shelter Services.

Heat Advisory Stage or Excessive Heat Warning

At this state, the Linn County Emergency Management Agency (EMA) will activate the county “heat relief protocol.” The protocol involves enhanced communication regarding jurisdictional “cooling centers.” EMA will provide a list of the cooling center locations to United Way 2-1-1 Information and Referral. In addition to points noted in the Readiness and Heat Watch Stages, consider the points below.

- Verify the number of weather overflow cots available and notify Shelter Services.

Process to Expand Shelter Options in Heat Event

The process to expand shelter options occurs whenever the National Weather Service issues an “EXCESSIVE HEAT WARNING,” or whenever individuals present a note from a medical professional (physician, nurse, medical social worker, etc.) indicating that due to a medical condition, it is unsafe for that individual to sleep outside, due to temperature or humidity.

Examples: asthma, heart conditions, cancer or any other chronic medical condition that might make it dangerous for the individual to sleep outside

- Individuals experiencing homelessness should call Shelter Services at (319) 366-7999.
- Those with medical conditions that would make sleeping outside difficult could request an overflow cot, with a written note from a medical professional.
- Activation of the protocol is not solely reliant on a Heat Emergency declaration from EMA.
- Catholic Worker House, Mission of Hope and Willis Dady have agreed to offer overflow beds for heat protocol individuals.
- Overflow beds are available on a first-come, first-served basis, but individuals will be prioritized, based on the community's existing priorities:

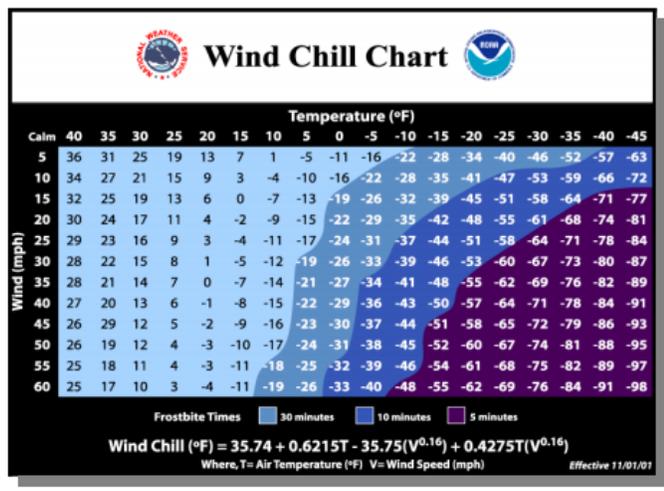
1. Families with children
2. Individuals fleeing domestic violence
3. Veterans

Extreme Weather Response: Excessive Cold

In the event of extended excessive cold, an increased demand may be placed on emergency shelter resources in Linn County.

Excessive Cold Definitions

- **Wind Chill Temperature:** It is the temperature it “feels like” outside and is based on the rate of heat loss from exposed skin caused by the effects of wind and cold. As the wind increases, the body is cooled at a faster rate causing the skin temperature to drop. Wind Chill does not impact inanimate objects like car radiators and exposed water pipes, because these objects cannot cool below the actual air temperature.
- **Wind Chill Advisory:** NWS issues a wind chill advisory when seasonably cold wind chill values but not extremely cold values are expected or occurring. Be sure you and your loved ones dress appropriately and cover exposed skin when venturing outdoors.
- **Wind Chill Watch:** NWS issues a wind chill watch when dangerously cold wind chill values are possible. As with a warning, adjust your plans to avoid being outside during the coldest parts of the day. Make sure your car has at least a half a tank of gas, and update your winter survival kit.
- **Wind Chill Warning:** NWS issues a wind chill warning when dangerously cold wind chill values are expected or occurring. If you are in an area with a wind chill warning, avoid going outside during the coldest parts of the day. If you do go outside, dress in layers, cover exposed skin, and make sure at least one other person knows your whereabouts. Update them when you arrive safely at your destination.



Wind Chill Advisory Stage

This stage does not call for any operational changes by the shelter. This stage is standard operations. If the weather outlook projects potential excessive cold, the shelter may want consider the following activities.

- Reach out to other shelters to confirm contacts (to include a 24/7 contact) are accurate
- Verify supplies are available for increased population
- Ensure shelter programs are aware of available warming sites.
- Verify the number of weather overflow cots available and notify Shelter Services.

Wind Chill Watch Stage

- Ensure shelter programs are aware of available warming sites.
- Verify the number of weather overflow cots available and notify Shelter Services.

Wind Chill Warning Stage

- Ensure shelter programs are aware of available warming sites.
- Verify the number of weather overflow cots available and notify Shelter Services.

Process to Expand Shelter Options in Extreme Cold Event

During the cold weather months (November 15 – March 15) there will be a process in place in which overflow beds will be available. Through coordination and collaboration between local government, area shelters, churches, law enforcement, local businesses and non-profits a system of overflow beds are made available to those in community seeking shelter when all area shelters are full.

Individuals experiencing homelessness should call Shelter Services at (319) 366-7999 to access the overflow shelter system.

Outreach to the Homeless Population in a Disaster

Prior to a disaster, the Street Outreach Team completes biannual Point-in-Time (PIT) Counts. One to two months prior to the PIT, the Street Outreach Team looks for individuals living on the streets. The Team consists of representatives from HACAP (Housing), Mental Health Outreach, Medical Outreach (when available), and Veterans Outreach and other interested community volunteers.

During the PIT and related preparation counts, the Street Outreach Team members offer the homeless individuals they encounter water and blankets to build rapport. Outreach teams follow a “skeleton route” that they build upon, keeping track of spots where they see evidence of a homeless campsite. Parks and outlying rural areas are also checked.

Reaching Those Living on the Street during a Disaster

- The PIT Street Outreach Team will be placed on “alert” Status.
- Shelter Service will be in communication with Red Cross shelters to verify locations and capacity.
- Outreach staff will be sent to Red Cross shelters or other community sites where those impacted may be congregating.
- Outreach staff will contact Shelter Services to find out if they are aware of anyone seeking shelter.
- Service workers will be educated about the disaster benefits for which individuals experiencing homelessness are eligible.

Overflow Shelter Supplies

Local organizations assist with the cleanup and storage of resources each year. This list changes depending on capacity each year. The COWSS Committee hopes to find a permanent location that includes storage in the near future.

Resource	Quantity	Location Stored
Cots	10	
First Aid Kit	1	
Lock Box	2	Public Health in summer Overflow shelter in winter
Plastic Pillow Covers	18	
Pillows	18	
Weather Radio	1	

Attachment A

EMERGENCY SHELTER RESOURCES 2018

· If you are in need of emergency shelter, please call Shelter Services at 319-366-7999 ·

Name & Location	Phone Number	Days/Hours	Services Provided
American Red Cross 6300 Rockwell Drive NE Cedar Rapids, IA 52402	393-3500	24 hours a day	Provides temporary shelter for those who are homeless due to fire or natural disaster.
Foundation 2 Youth Shelter 3015 12 th Avenue SW Cedar Rapids, IA 52404	366-8797	24 hours a day, year round	Shelter for youth, ages 11 to 17. The shelter is free; counseling provided on a sliding fee scale based on income and ability to pay. Meals provided. Services include individual, family and group counseling, in-shelter school program for youth residing outside the metropolitan area, tutoring for those in shelter, recreation and health care. A family assessment is conducted within 5-days for non-system or voluntary youth. Maximum length of stay is up to 21 days for non-system youth and 45 days for court-ordered youth (can be extended upon request and approval). Capacity is 17 youth. Family and individual counseling is available to families and youth.
Friends of the Family 5250 North Park Place NE, Ste 109 Cedar Rapids, IA 52402	800-410-7233	24 hours a day, year round	Offers safe, emergency shelter options for victims fleeing intimate partner violence. Victims needing safe emergency shelter can call the 24-hour Crisis & Support Line and talk to an Advocate about their situation, discuss options and create a safety plan. Services are free and confidential.
Mission of Hope Men's Shelter 211 Park Court SE Cedar Rapids, IA 52403	Program: 365-0502 For openings: 366-7999	7 days per week, 4:00 PM to 8:00 AM	Offers 16 beds for men. Safe housing is provided for individuals including people that are sex offenders, formerly incarcerated, the homeless, and others in need. Hot meals served daily at 6:00 pm. Mild to moderate structured environment with 6:00 pm curfew unless checked out for work or recovery group. All residents are searched upon entrance.

Mission of Hope Women's Shelter 211 Park Court SE Cedar Rapids, IA 52403	Program: 200-2045 For openings: 366-7999	Daily, 4:00 PM - 8:00 AM, 7 days per week	Offers 12 beds for women. Safe housing is provided for individuals including people that are offenders, formerly incarcerated, the homeless, and others in need. Hot meals served daily at 6:00 PM. Mild to moderate structured environment with 6:00 PM curfew unless checked out for work or recovery group. All residents are searched upon entrance.
St. John of the Cross – Catholic Worker House 1027 5th Avenue SE Cedar Rapids, IA 52403	For openings: 366-7999 Program: 362-9041	Daily, 7:00 AM - 10:00 PM Check-in at 2:00 PM. Residents need to leave the building: Monday - Friday, 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM.	Shelter for single women with or without children, and married couples with or without children. Does not serve unaccompanied minors, single males, single fathers with children, active substance abusers or persons who are actively suicidal. No fees. Breakfast and dinner are provided for residents. Maximum time allowed in shelter is 30 days for single women and couples without children. Maximum time allowed in shelter is 60 days for women and couples with children. Capacity is 25 persons, depending on family configuration.
Waypoint Services Madge Phillips Center for Homeless Women & Children 318 5th Street SE Cedar Rapids, IA 52401	For openings: 366-7999	4:00 PM to 9:00 AM Monday through Friday. 24/7 Saturday, Sunday and Holidays. Shelter intake hours are Monday - Friday, 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM.	Shelter for women and families with children. No fees. Structured, goal-oriented program. Services include access to a daytime resource program, laundry facility, short-term counseling, assistance with housing and employment search. Capacity is 16 private living units. Unit availability is based upon family configuration.
Willis Dady Emergency Shelter 1247 4th Avenue SE Cedar Rapids, IA 52403	For openings: 366-7999 Program: 362-7555	<u>Monday through Sunday. Check in times:</u> Families from 1:00 PM to 4:00 PM Men from 1:00 PM to 5:00 PM.	Shelter for single men (18 and over) and families with children. Curfew for all residents is 9:30 PM daily. Shelter is closed during the day from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM. No fees. Meals served on Sunday and holidays. Capacity is 36 persons. Does not serve persons listed on sex offender registries.

For more information regarding community resources, contact United Way 2-1-1 by phone at 2-1-1, 319-739-4211, or 1-866-469-2211. You may also choose to search the new United Way 2-1-1 website for resources at www.firstcallforhelpiowa.org. To obtain a copy of the Resource Charts, go to www.linncounty.org/communityservices or contact Linn County Community Services at 892-5600. For questions about the Resource Charts, contact Linn County Community Services at 892-5600.