



Department of Communications

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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GARY CITY HALL CLOSED WEDNESDAY DUE TO EXPECTED FREEZING TEMPERATURES CITY OF GARY REMINDS CITIZENS TO TAKE PRECAUTIONS DURING POTENTIALLY LIFE THREATENING WEATHER

Report Cold-Weather and Snow-Related Issues" Call-881-1311

Gary, Indiana-As weather reports continue to predict substantially below zero temperatures and some snow throughout the week, city of Gary officials urge citizens to take necessary precautions during this dangerous cold spell. It is predicted that Gary and Northwest Indiana cities will experience record cold temperatures with wind chills reaching 30-55 below zero on Wednesday and Thursday. A wind chill warning is in effect for the area.

Residents are reminded when going out to dress in layers and cover exposed skin to prevent frostbite and hypothermia. Frostbite can occur in just 10 minutes.

Important Information:

City Hall will be closed on Wednesday-January 30, 2019.

For Cold-Weather and Snow-Related Issues" Call-881-1311. The Command Center will be open 7:00 am—7:00 pm.

Gary City Court Closed Wednesday; One (1) hour delay on Thursday-re-opens at 10:00 a.m.

Warming Centers will be available

The city's warming centers will be available for Gary residents. Warming Centers include Gary City Hall, the Calumet Township Center, Brothers' Keeper, Oak Street Health and Gary Public Transportation and St. John Baptist Church. (See list attached). For warming centers after hours, call the Gary Police Department main desk at 219-881-1214. On this Wednesday, St. John Baptist Church, 2457 Massachusetts St. will serve as a warming center from 9 A.M. on Wednesday

through Thursday 9 A.M. (24 Hrs.) Gary Fire Stations are additionally available for **temporary relief**, 24 hours per day.

Residents are further reminded to check on older citizens, neighbors and pets and to report any cases of persons living in homes without utilities to City Hall to (219) 881-1302 or via email at mocs@ci.gary.in.us. Residents may also visit the city's website at www.garyin.us. "Click" on 311 to report the situation.

Gary Rental Housing Ordinance

Property owners who are landlords in the city are reminded of the city of Gary's Rental Housing Ordinance that requires property owners to maintain a consistent 68 degrees in rental properties from October 1 through May 1. Per the city's ordinance, property owners are required to provide heat to rental properties under the following conditions:

"Residential Buildings. Every owner of a Rental Building or Rental Unit, shall supply a heat source adequate to maintain there in from October 1 through May 1 of the following year, a minimum inside temperature of 68F, at three (3) feet above floor level in all habitable rooms, bathrooms, shower rooms, and toilet rooms or compartments, between the hours of 6:00 a.m. and 11:00 p.m., and not less than 65F between the hours of 11:00 p.m. and 6:00 a.m. in all the rooms".

Residents who or renters should immediately contact the landlord if the heat is not working properly as outlined in the city ordinance. Residents may report landlords not in compliance with the city ordinance to 219-881-1311 for follow up from the Gary Building Department.

Weather related emergencies such as power outages should be reported to NIPSCO in the following manners; call 1-800-464-7726, online at NIPSCO.com, via Mobile: m.nipsco.com or Text "Out" to 444111. For Power outages, residents may also use the City of Gary's 311 system by dialing 219-881-1311.

Non-emergencies should be reported to Police Dispatch at 219-660-0000. **Medical emergencies or conditions should be called in to 911.**

Residents are reminded that the city's snow team plows snow according to a "snow removal" action plan. The plan is designed to be the most effective in covering the greatest number of roadways and as efficiently as possible. **Important note: The snow team begins plowing snow at the end of the snowfall.** During snow events, city trucks are dispatched to main thoroughfares and primary roadways when there is one (1") inch or more of snow accumulation. Primary roadways are those leading to hospitals and adjacent to schools. Primary roadways are considered main arterial or higher traffic roadways; including hills and bridges.

Secondary roadways are plowed after main thoroughfares. Secondary roadways include those in neighborhoods where workers will plow once, down the middle of residential streets to

prevent deep ice rutting and to keep the streets passable. Secondary roadways are consistently travelled streets and those that feed into Primary roadways. Residents are reminded that it could take up to 48 hours for side street snow removal when there is heavy accumulation. Alleys conditions will be evaluated last, during heavier snow accumulations. For snowfall events of six (6") inches or more, contractors will be utilized to assist snow plowing and in maintaining mobility in the city.

Residents are also reminded that parking is prohibited on snow routes; main thoroughfares when snowfall TWO (2) OR MORE INCHES. The City's towing policy will be strictly enforced. Residents are urged not to park on snow routes. Vehicles parked on snow routes will be towed at the owner's expense. Residents are asked to help the city by being familiar with the snow action plan and by adhering to parking restrictions on city streets. Residents are also asked to shovel sidewalks, driveways and access routes in front of residences.

For weather related updates visit www.teamgaryindiana.com facebook, blog and twitter. Residents may also tune in to local radio.