



NEW YORK CITY OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Office of Public Information

Calvin Drayton, Acting Commissioner
11 Water Street Brooklyn, NY 11201

Jarrold Bernstein, Press Secretary
718-422-4888 (o); 718-422-4871 (f)

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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Contact: Jarrold Bernstein (718) 422-4888

CITY OF NEW YORK OPENS TEMPORARY WARMING CENTERS

Due to the unusually extreme temperatures and the number of homes that have been without heat for several days, the City, in partnership with the American Red Cross, will open one temporary warming center in each of the five boroughs for a limited period. The City will re-evaluate the decision to keep centers open based on need. For more information about warming centers, residents should call 311.

"In light of the exceptionally cold weather, the City is opening warming centers for those without heat," said Calvin Drayton, acting OEM Commissioner. "We urge all New Yorkers to take necessary steps to stay warm and safe during this period of cold temperatures."

The City strongly recommends those without heat stay with friends or family if possible. For residents without heat who have no alternative shelter, five temporary warming centers will be open as of 4 p.m., Friday, at the following locations:

Bronx: Adlai Stevenson High School, 1980 Lafayette Ave. (between White Plains Road and Pugsley Avenue)

Brooklyn: Paul Robeson High School, 150 Albany Ave. (between Bergen Street and St. Marks Avenue)

Manhattan: City College, 181 Convent Ave. (between W. 136th and W. 137th Streets)

Staten Island: Michael J. Petrides High School, 715 Ocean Terrace (between Milford Avenue and Staten Island Boulevard)

Queens: Grover Cleveland High School, 2127 Himrod St. (between Grandview Avenue and Tonsor Street)

About Warming Centers:

- City-run warming centers will be set up at select schools and universities. If possible, bring clothing, bedding, bathing and sanitary supplies, special food and pre-filled prescriptions and other medications to warming centers.
- Alcoholic beverages, firearms and illegal substances are not allowed in warming centers.
- You cannot bring pets to warming centers. Only service animals are allowed.



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- Cooperate with center managers and other people in order to make a difficult situation less stressful.
 - Stay tuned to the local news, access NYC.gov or call 311 for the latest information.

The City recommends all New Yorkers heed the following cold weather safety tips to ensure they are adequately protected.

Tips for Staying Warm

Exposure to cold can cause life-threatening health conditions. Avoid serious conditions such as frostbite and hypothermia, by keeping warm.

- Wear a hat, hood or scarf, as most heat is lost through the head.
- Wear layers, as they provide better insulation and warmth.
- Keep fingertips, earlobes and noses covered if you go outside.
- Keep clothing dry; if a layer becomes wet, remove it.

What to Do If You Lose Heat

Every resident is entitled to heat and hot water. Tenants without adequate heat or hot water should first speak with the building owner, manager, or superintendent. If the problem is not corrected, tenants should call 311. The Department of Housing Preservation and Development (HPD) will attempt to contact your building's owner to get heat or hot water service restored.

If service has not been restored, HPD will send an inspector to your building to verify the complaint and issue a violation. If your landlord does not live up to his or her legal obligation, HPD will call in emergency contractors to fix the boiler or do whatever is required to get your heat and hot water working again.

If you lose heat, take measures to trap existing warm air, and safely stay warm until heat returns:

- Insulate your home as much as possible. Hang blankets over windows and doorways and stay in a well-insulated room while power is out.
- Dress warmly. Wear hats, scarves, gloves and layered clothing.
- If you have a working fireplace, use it for heat and light, but be sure to keep the damper open for ventilation.
- If the cold persists and your heat is not restored, call family, neighbors or friends to see if you can stay with them.
- Open your faucets to a steady drip so pipes do not freeze.



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