

MEMA Mass Care

Warming Center Tips



Benefits and Considerations for Warming Centers

Warming Centers are often opened during extreme temperature drops or extended period of below freezing temperatures.

- Provide a place of refuge to prevent death and injury from exposure to the elements such as Extreme Cold and Wind.
- Reduce risk of hypothermia and other weather-related injuries.
- Provide a place of refuge to those vulnerable due to health-related issues.
- Provide social interaction to those normally isolated but vulnerable to extreme cold weather conditions.

Considerations:

- Identify a Warming Center Facility in advance of Cold Weather.
- Ensure access to Warming Center is free of ice and snow.
- Ensure area in the Facility used for Warming is ADA accessible and has the ability to accommodate those with Access and Functional Needs.
- Warming Centers are a viable open No less than two staff on site for Safety Considerations.
- Chairs and Tables should be set-up.
- May have extended hours but does not typically include sleeping areas=
- Hygiene stations should be set-up with easy access for Staff and Center occupants.
- Set-up of Refreshments and Snacks to use the “grab and go” method.
- Set-up Charging station to enable charging of mobile electronics devices such as Cell Phones, Laptops, and Tablets.

MEMA Mass Care offers no-cost training and assistance related to Warming Centers. Contact Bill Guindon, MEMA Mass Care Coordinator at william.guindon@maine.gov or 207-458-2867.

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Opening Cooling and Warming Centers or Disaster/Emergency Shelters

The decision to open and operate a Cooling and Warming Center or Disaster/Emergency Shelter is at the discretion of local EMA and Municipals Officials in collaboration coordination with the County EMA. The exception being that a Local or County EMA may plan with a government or non-government Agency or Organization regarding opening triggers.

Please notify MEMA of any Cooling or Warming Center or Disaster/Emergency Shelter Openings through the following email:

The email notification address is CenterShelter.OpenNotification@Maine.Gov (Please provide the location, hours, point of contact, and facility-specific information.)

The email is automatically forwarded to the MEMA Duty Officer, Individual Assistance Officer, Mass Care Coordinator, MEMA PIO, and 211 Maine.

Opening and closing of Centers and Shelters will be posted on the Maine Emergency Management Agency (MEMA) WebEOC and MEMA Website platform by the Mass Care Coordinator or MEMA Public Information Officer when notified by the Local Municipal or County Emergency Management Agency of Center or Disaster/Emergency Shelter Opening.

Important Note:

During extreme weather situations MEMA will post homeless and wellness shelter openings when notified of such resource availability. Non-weather or disaster related homeless and wellness shelter resources can be found by contacting 211Maine <https://211maine.org> or Call 211 or 1-866-811-5695 or MaineHousing at: <https://www.mainehousing.org/> 207-626-4600.