



**Highlands County  
Emergency Management  
Emergency Operations Center  
Advisory**



1. EOC Advisory #: 2	2. Incident Name: 2018 Winter Weather	3. Date: 1/4/2018	4. Time: 12:00
5. EOC Statement			

**OVERNIGHT FREEZE WARNING  
COLD WEATHER SHELTER OPEN TONIGHT**

**FORECAST**

As the cold weather effecting Florida continues to move south, Highlands County is forecasted to see a low of 30 degrees with a wind chill of 23 overnight. Highlands County is currently under a freeze warning and is forecasted to see sub-freezing temperatures overnight. Sub-freezing temperatures will be a danger for pets, livestock and sensitive vegetation.

**PROTECTIVE ACTIONS**

Highlands County Emergency Management continues to monitor the winter weather effecting Highlands County through multiple phone calls with the National Weather Service and Florida Department of Emergency Management. County Emergency Management will be opening a cold weather shelter for residents to escape the cold at the Bert J. Harris Agricultural Center Conference Room #3 at 7:00pm tonight until 8:00am Friday Morning. The shelter may be open on consecutive nights if forecasts dictate the need. This shelter is located at 4509 George Blvd., Sebring FL 33875.

**What to Expect in a Shelter**

General population shelters provide a safe place to stay. General shelters allow approximately 20 square feet per person. However, shelters will not be able to provide the same level of convenience as a family member's home or a hotel. Oftentimes, shelters can be crowded, noisy, boring, and have very little privacy.

**What to Bring to a Shelter**

- Food & Water** - any special food needed for dietary purposes - non-perishable packaged or canned food / juices / snacks
- Medication** and written instructions regarding care and medication
- Blankets / Pillows / Bedding, etc.**
- Clothing** - seasonal /rain gear/ sturdy shoes
- Toiletries** - hygiene items / moisture wipes
- Miscellaneous** - You may bring a cell phone with charger, games, cards, toys, battery powered radios, flashlights, batteries, or other reasonable items you may need.

**Not Allowed**

- Alcoholic beverages, tobacco or weapons.
- Smoking is not allowed in shelters.
- Pets (only service animals are allowed in shelters).



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**When cold weather is in the forecast, it is important to remember the "5 P's of Cold Weather Safety." The 5 P's are:**

**Protect People:** Remember to dress in layers and wear a hat and gloves. It is important to try to stay out of the wind and to stay dry. Also, remember to check on young children and the elderly who are the most sensitive to cold weather.

**Protect Pets:** If cold weather is in the forecast, be sure to bring outdoor pets inside or give them a warm shelter to stay in.

**Protect Plants:** Cover cold sensitive plants to protect them from the dangerous temperatures.

**Protect Pipes:** Cover pipes and allow outdoor faucets to slowly drip to prevent from freezing and breaking.

**Practice Fire Safety:** Use safe heating sources indoors. Do not use fuel-burning devices such as grills; they release carbon monoxide, which is a deadly gas. Also, make sure to use space heaters according to their instructions and be attentive to open flames.