



## NEWS RELEASE

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### Take Precautions during Cold Weather

With low temperatures forecasted for tonight and through the weekend, Wake County encourages residents to prepare for winter weather. [ReadyWake.com](#) provides emergency preparedness tips on how to keep safe during the winter months and severe weather.

Residents should:

- Monitor local weather forecasts and conditions. Set up a family communication plan for how you will contact one another in an emergency.
- Prepare an emergency kit. For a full list of what to include, go to [ReadyWake](#).
- Wear several layers of warm clothing and make sure to keep dry.
- If exposed to the cold, watch for signs of frostbite and hypothermia. Hypothermia symptoms include slurred speech, confusion, shivering that will not stop or a body temperature of 95 degrees Fahrenheit or below.
- Check on neighbors, especially the elderly, to make sure they have all the supplies they need to withstand the cold temperatures and conditions.

Wake County agencies will also provide shelter for anyone experiencing homelessness due to low temperatures. The White Flag program is implemented whenever the temperature is projected to be 32 degrees Fahrenheit or below any time between 6 p.m. and 6 a.m., or when there is heavy or steady precipitation and the temperature is projected to be 38 degrees Fahrenheit or below between 6 p.m. and 6 a.m. The shelters will display a white flag during these conditions and not turn anyone away, even if they are at capacity.

Shelter sites in Raleigh include:

- [The South Wilmington Street Center](#), 1420 S. Wilmington St.;
- [The Healing Place of Wake County](#), 3310 Glen Royal Road;
- [Raleigh Rescue Mission](#), 314 E. Hargett St.; and
- [Salvation Army](#), 1863 Capital Blvd.

All men seeking shelter should first contact the South Wilmington Street Center for referral. Women without children should contact The Healing Place of Wake County. Women with or without children may contact the Raleigh Rescue Mission.

Pet owners should also prepare to protect animals during the cold weather:

- Do not leave your pets outdoors unattended when the temperatures are below freezing.
- If you are unable to allow your pet inside your home, consider allowing them in the garage at night, and provide them with warm bedding.
- If your pet must remain outside, make sure that they have shelter and adequate bedding so that they can be kept warm. Check on them often.
- Make sure all outdoor animals have water that is not frozen.
- Do not leave your pets in your car on cold days.
- After taking your pet outside, make sure to clean off their paws, legs and stomach. Any salt or de-icing chemicals that are ingested may make your pet sick.

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