

Situation Report

Situation Report: 02-22-2022		
Incident Name: February 2022 Winter Weather		
OERS Number: OERS #2022-0416		
EOC: Fully Activated	Unified Commanders: Jonna Papaefthimiou, Portland Bureau of Emergency Management Lee Girard, Department of County Human Services Marc Jolin, Joint Office of Homeless Services Chris Voss, Multnomah County Emergency Management	
Date: 2/22/2022	Time: 1737	All Situation Reports for the February Cold Weather Emergency Response will be archived on the County's website.

To submit updates / actions to this report, email the Multnomah County EOC Situation Unit at eoc.situationunit@multco.us with the subject line: Update for February 2022 Winter Weather Situation Report.

Multnomah County and City of Portland

February 2022 Winter Weather

Emergency Response

Executive Summary

Multnomah County and the City of Portland initiated a collaborative response to an extreme cold weather event forecast for the week of February 21-25. Implementing lessons from past Winter Storm and Summer Heat events, Multnomah County and the City of Portland are leveraging the strengths of our partners and community. Together, warming interventions and communications strategies are put in place to minimize the impacts of cold weather and prevent deaths. The response is strategically prioritizing communities with the greatest needs, using race/ethnicity disparity research, community voice and wisdom, and public health best practice.

On February 22, Multnomah County Chair Deborah Kafoury and City of Portland Mayor Ted Wheeler declared a State of Emergency as the region braced for severely cold overnight temperatures. Severe weather shelters will open at 8:00 pm, Tuesday, February 22, and stay open until 10 a.m on Wednesday morning. Officials are monitoring the weather forecast and additional overnight shelter hours will be added if low temperature thresholds are met in the upcoming days.

- [Multnomah County Chair Deborah Kafoury's Emergency Declaration \(February 22 until February 24\)](#)
- [City of Portland Mayor Ted Wheeler's Emergency Declaration \(February 22 until February 24\)](#)

A second Situation Report is planned to be distributed on February 24 to recap response efforts.

National Weather Service (NWS) Reports and Forecasts

All recorded and forecasted weather from the Portland Airport (PDX)

February 21-22, 2022

Rain, and snow at higher elevations, persisted into the evening on February 21 before clearing out and being replaced by a cold front pushing down from the north. Overnight temperatures reached a low of 32 degrees in the morning of February 22, with wind chills dropping to 21 degrees. Shelter activation thresholds were not met, based on overnight temperatures and the lack of snow or ice accumulations.

Black ice was a concern in the morning, but no widespread issues were noted.

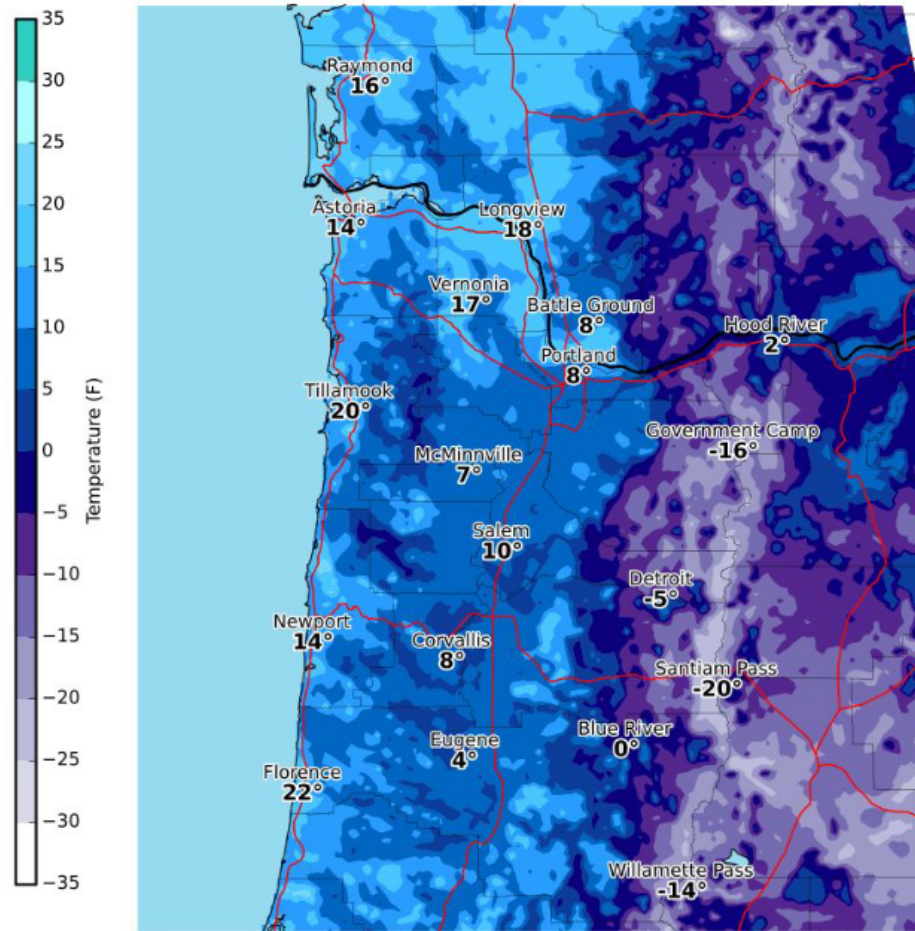
Emergency shelter activation was planned for the evening of February 22 with conditions getting colder and winds strengthening.

February 22-23, 2022

- The forecast high temperature was 37 degrees during the day on February 22.
- Overnight temperatures are expected to get dangerously cold at night and into the morning. Wind chills are forecast to get down to as low as 7 degrees with the coldest times between 5am and 7am on the morning of February 23. The low overnight temperature is forecast to be 19 degrees at 6am on February 23.
- Strong east winds are contributing to the severe cold, with gusts overnight ranging from 18 to nearly 30 miles per hour. Winds will be more consistent near the Gorge, leading to even slightly colder temperatures and wind chills in East County.
- Conditions are expected to remain dry.

Wednesday Morning Wind Chill

Valid: Wednesday, February 23, 2022 at 07 AM PST



National Weather Service
Portland Oregon
02/22/2022 01:12 PM PST

Follow Us:



weather.gov/Portland

Graphic showing wind chill lows across Northern Oregon and Southern Washington. Portland is projected to have a low wind chill of 8 degrees at the time this map was published.

February 23-24, 2022

- Temperatures are expected to warm up during the day on Wednesday, February 23, reaching 28 degrees by 10am and a daytime high of 38 degrees.
- Winds are expected to be much lighter tomorrow night, with the wind chill low expected to be 24 degrees. The overnight low temperature is also expected to be 24 degrees, with the coldest period between 11pm and 5am.

- Temperatures will again warm up during the day, hitting 34 degrees by 10am and reaching 44 degrees as the daytime high.

February 24-25, 2022

- Thursday evening into Friday morning is expected to be the last night with sub 30-degree temperatures in this weather system. Currently projected low temperatures are 25 degrees between 2am and 5am.
- Winds are expected to be gustier again, leading to a low wind chill of 21 degrees between 4am and 5am.
- Warming will be rapid during the day, with a projected high temperature of 50 degrees.

Closures

No Multnomah County or City of Portland services are anticipated to close or have reduced hours, except for Portland Parks Bureau Community Centers being used as shelter sites. Those schedule changes can be tracked at their [Inclement Weather Policy and Closures](#) page.

Road conditions are currently clear throughout the county.

[Operations Section](#)

The Operations Section is coordinating and ensuring the support of warming interventions. Warming interventions are designed to provide options for those seeking respite from the severe weather, and include severe winter weather shelters and the distribution of warming resources to those remaining outdoors.

Shelter Plan

Multnomah County and the City of Portland's Mass Care and Shelter team provide compassionate care for community guests seeking relief from the cold. They operate and support severe winter weather shelters, which are a type of [Disaster Resource Center \(DRC\)](#) with heat, warming resources, water, food, and support services.

The City of Portland and Multnomah County will open five Severe Weather Shelters with a capacity of 370 guests at 8:00 PM on Tuesday, February 22. The latest shelter operation information is available at multco.us/cold and 211info.org.

Shelters are currently planned to be operated overnight only, because of the lack of snow and ice and warming temperatures during the day. Shelters will stay open until 10am on Wednesday, February 23. Additional emergency sheltering periods will be determined as weather forecasts are updated each morning.

Severe Weather Shelters	Address	Capacity
East Portland Community Center	740 SE 106th Ave	60
Salvation Army Moore	5325 N Williams Ave	60
Mt. Scott Community Center	5530 SE 72nd Ave	80
Market Street (operated by TPI)	120 SE Market St	125
Sunrise Center (operated by Cultivate Initiatives)	18901 E Burnside St	45
	Total Capacity:	370

Table 1- Severe shelter locations and capacities.



Figure 1 - Map of severe weather shelter locations

County shelters have a “no turn away” policy because of life-threatening cold temperatures and will create additional capacity during this event as needed. Severe weather shelters do not require identification or any other documentation for entry. All shelters are ADA accessible and pets are welcome at all locations. Survival kits with life-saving gear — tents, sleeping bags, warm clothing — will also be distributed as needed at each severe weather shelter site.

In partnership with 211, the City and County are offering free transportation for guests to shelters, using City and County resources. Tri-Met is also waiving fares for people traveling to and from shelters throughout the period of severe weather sheltering. Volunteers from Portland’s Neighborhood Emergency Teams are partnering with 211 to provide additional remote dispatching assistance.

COVID-19 Safety Protocols

To ensure the safety of guests, staff and volunteers, COVID-19 safety protocols are in place and everyone inside the shelter must be masked at all times (except when consuming food or drink). Shelters will have N95 or KN95 masks for guests and staff available. Shelter staff and volunteers must be fully vaccinated.

COVID-19 testing is available for guests with illness symptoms. Guests with positive tests will be relocated to Voluntary Isolation Motels (VIMo) to prevent COVID-19 outbreaks.

Outreach

Outreach teams including [Transition Projects](#), [Cascadia](#), [JOIN](#), [Janus Youth Program](#), [Multnomah County Sheriff's Office HOPE team](#) and others are performing outreach throughout the incident to encourage unhoused neighbors to seek shelter overnight due to the cold, while also providing cold weather gear.

The Joint Office of Homeless Services and outreach providers divide Multnomah County into 37 zones to ensure all areas of the County receive outreach support. Outreach teams will be active every evening throughout the response.

The Joint Office Supply Center is open to distribute winter gear to outreach partners and mutual aid groups. Outreach began on Thursday, February 17. So far, these partners have distributed a total of:

271	Sleeping Bags	640	Tarps
560	Thermal Mylar Sleeping Bags	148	Hoodies
248	Tents	612	Gloves
750	Blankets	612	Hats
1548	Socks	140	Sweatpants
380	Ponchos	600	Hand Warmers

The [Portland Community Organizations Active in Disaster \(COAD\) program](#) sent a Weather Alert email to COAD members with information around the cold weather and shelter operations on February 21. The English and Spanish warming shelter flyers were included, as well as an invitation to a virtual Cold Weather Community Call held on the morning of Tuesday, February 22. The call was hosted by the COAD coordinator and provided updates on the week's weather and shelter information. The meeting was open to partners, community organizations, faith organizations - all are welcome. For more information, email coad@portlandoregon.gov.

Staffing and [Administration](#)

The Administration Section strives to ensure recruitment and training that creates an inclusive, positive, productive, and healthy work environment across all response operations. Team members remain nimble and address the changing conditions throughout the emergency response. Staffing for the entire response is coordinated through this section as well as human resources and labor relations consultation.

Staff and Volunteers

Multnomah County Human Resources, City of Portland and Oregon Department of Human Services are recruiting staff to volunteer for paid temporary reassignment to work at the severe winter weather shelters starting February 22. Online recruitment for shelter staff began on Friday, February 18. If additional staffing is needed, another recruitment message will be released. At this time, staffing from the general public is not being sought.

A [series of training videos](#) was designed to help prepare volunteers to work in these settings.

Neighborhood Emergency Response Teams (NETs)

Portland [Neighborhood Emergency Teams \(NET\)](#) are providing critical assistance to this response in several aspects of the response including:

- Assisting 211 in providing shelter transportation dispatch
- Driving and logistics section support roles
- Supply preparations at Joint Office of Homeless Services (JOHS) and County Emergency Operations Center (EOC)
- Staffing shelter operations

[Public Information](#) and Joint Information System ([JIS](#))

The Public Information and Joint Information System uses an equity lens to create and disseminate vital information to the public, assuring accessibility and relevance to communities. Public Information Officers (PIOs) current priorities include communicating out [resources](#) to mitigate the impact of this extreme cold weather incident on community members.

A Joint Information System (JIS) was established with the City of Portland, Trimet and 211 for the severe cold. The JIS will meet daily during this response and post regular updates to the [Care for When It's Cold](#) webpage. The JIS is responding to media requests, has a shared media protocol, and a social media plan where they are monitoring and posting messages in multiple languages. On February 19, outreach workers began distributing a shelter locations flier which is available in English and Spanish. The flier can also be found on the Care for When It's Cold webpage.

- [Pets During Cold Weather](#) (Oregon Humane Society)
- [Cold Weather Tips to Print and Post](#) Includes:

- [Help for when it's cold - Information for Older Adults](#)
- [Help for when it's cold - Information for Cold Weather Safety](#)
- [Help for when it's cold - Information for Pet Owners](#)
- The City and County have multiple social media accounts that are updated regularly in different languages with emergency messaging. Please visit and share:
 - [Multnomah County Emergency Management Facebook](#)
 - [Multnomah County Facebook](#)
 - [Multnomah County Instagram](#)
 - [Multnomah County Twitter](#)
 - [City of Portland Facebook](#)
 - [City of Portland Twitter](#)

Logistics

The Logistics Section supports the actions of all other emergency response sections. Logistics focuses on procedures for staging, distributing, allocating, tracking, and deactivating resources, supplies, and materials needed for operational priorities.

Resource Priorities

For the current winter weather response, the Logistics Section is prioritizing the procurement, coordination, and delivery of the supplies needed to set-up shelter sites. The Logistics Section continues to intake and fulfill resource requests related to the COVID-19 pandemic while supporting the February 2022 Winter Weather Activation.

Supply Unit

The Supply Unit has been assessing inventory following the December 2022 Winter Weather Activation and acquiring depleted resources to ensure success in this and future operations. The Logistics Section, in collaboration with the Operations Section, has set up floor protection at three of the current shelter locations. The Supply Unit is prepared to receive incoming resource requests from the shelter sites and will be available until midnight tonight to accommodate supply needs as shelters open.

Food Unit

In coordination with contracted providers, the Logistics Section has prepared breakfast meals for up to three days at each of the five shelter sites. Meal needs will continue to be monitored as shelter hours are updated.

Ground Support Unit

The Ground Support Unit has assisted with the distribution of resources to shelter sites during the build-up to operations. The team has transported two supply trailers and approximately 20 pallets of supplemental supplies, and will continue to complete general transports supporting this incident. The Ground Support Unit will also focus on guest transportation needs at the shelter locations in coordination with 211.

Public Health and Emergency Services

Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) volunteers and Behavioral Health staff will be located at severe weather shelters to provide support for guests and staff. Behavioral Health staff are also working with emergency response teams for this incident and are working with a health outreach program.

211

[211info](#) connects people with health and social service organizations. At the core of this work is the Community Information Center, supported by 211's Resource Database team. 211 provides enhanced information and referral and assistance programs that support specific populations and service needs.

Planning for the February 2022 cold weather incident included:

- Adding [severe weather shelter](#) information to prominently feature on the [211info homepage](#). This resource includes county-specific information about severe weather shelters in 29 Oregon counties.

Stay Informed, Get Help, Get Involved

Activated Call Centers

Call Center	Phone Number	Email	Hours
211 Call Center	211 or 866-698-6155	help@211info.org	Seven days a week, 24 hours a day.
Behavioral Health Call Center	503-988-4888 Toll-free: 800-716-9769 TTY: 711		Open 24 hours a day, seven days a week
Aging & Disabilities Resource Connection	503-988-3646	adrc@multco.us	Information and assistance to older people, people with disabilities, and caregivers, open 24 hours a day, seven days a week

More questions?

- Consult [Multnomah County Care for When It's Cold](#).
- Contact [211](#):
 - Call 2-1-1 (open 24/7)
 - Visit [211info](#)
 - Text your zip code to 899211 (standard message and data rates may apply)

Media

For media inquiries related to the December 2021 Winter Weather incident please **contact Julie Sullivan-Springhetti**, Multnomah County Public Information Media Coordinator at: **503-502-2741**.



Document Development Information	
Prepared By (Name & Position)	Arini Farrell, Situation Unit Leader
Approved By (Name & Position)	Lee Girard, Unified Command Jonna Papaefthimiou, Unified Command
Date; Time Approved	02/22/2022; 1930 hours
This is the situation report for 02/22/2022.	