

GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
Executive Office of the Mayor



Provisions for the Homeless in Emergency Weather Event – January 8, 2014

The District of Columbia government has made provisions to protect the homeless population from the extreme cold weather we are experiencing.

The DC government's standard Hypothermia Alert process is in place. This means that shelter placements are available to those in need. To report immediate need for shelter, an individual should contact the Hypothermia Shelter Hotline at 1-800-535-7252 or 311. In the interest of time, the public is encouraged to use email (uposh@upo.org) and Twitter (@dchypothermia) to request support for persons who are homeless. Include the time when the reporter saw the person, the location of the sighting, and a description of the person's appearance (such as clothing).

Additional provisions effective for January 8, 2014:

In cases where homeless residents choose not to use the traditional or hypothermia shelters, there are additional options for them to access a warm, safe place to stay.

1. **From 7:00 pm to 7:00 am:** Warming buses will be located throughout the city as a low-barrier place for homeless individuals to spend the night and stay warm. These buses will provide space for some belongings (one large bag), snacks, and outdoor toilet facilities.

Bus locations:

- 9th Street NW and Pennsylvania Avenue NW
 - Union Station, on Massachusetts Avenue (2 buses)
 - McPherson Square, 15th Street NW and K Street NW (2 buses)
 - West End Library, 1101 24th Street NW (2 buses)
 - 27th Street NW and K Street NW
2. The Department of Behavioral Health (DBH) and MPD are fully prepared to exercise authority under D.C. law to transport those homeless individuals with a mental illness who are not able to protect themselves from the extreme cold to the Comprehensive Psychiatric Emergency Program (CPEP) Center located at DC General Campus for mental health evaluations. If necessary, individuals may also be taken to other local emergency rooms for physical and mental health evaluations.

These provisions are designed to reach the homeless population that typically chooses not to participate in the traditional shelter or hypothermia shelter systems. The District of Columbia government is doing everything possible to accommodate these residents in a safe and warm non-shelter option to ensure their safety during this extreme weather event.