

# 2024-2025 Winter Weather Preparedness

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Homeland Security & Emergency Management (HSEM)  
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# Agenda

- Citywide Preparation Highlights Across the Enterprise
- Cold Weather Shelters & Activation Triggers
- Winter Shelter Plans
- Warming Centers
- Emergency Public Information Resources
- Council Communication: News Flashes and Liaison Officer

# Citywide Preparation Highlights

Departments are preparing equipment, supplies, and staff for cold weather.

**Transportation and Public Works** – conducted a field exercise to drive prescribed routes for road treatment, traffic signal exercise, ordered de-icing materials.

**Austin Energy** – conducted an incident command exercise for winter weather preparation in October

**Austin Public Libraries** – Pre-identified Warming Center locations for extended hours

**Fleet Services** – Trained staff to properly apply chains to vehicle tires

**Parks and Recreation Department** – coordinating mass care sites with HSEM + staging Mission Ready Packages

## HSEM Offered Six (6) Winter Weather Preparedness Trainings in November & December

- Winter Weather Plan Review
- Winter Weather Tabletop Exercise
- Liaison Officer training for CMO Advisors
- Public Information EOC Training for all City communication positions
- Public Information Lead PIO Training
- Public Information EOC Tabletop Exercise for Winter Weather Roster

# Cold Weather Shelters & Activation Triggers



**Cold Weather Shelters are for life safety & are primarily used by people experiencing homelessness. No one will be turned away.**

- Updated and simplified CWS Threshold for Activation: 35°F or lower using NWS Camp Mabry location
- Intake centralized at One Texas Center
- Shelter guests are bussed to shelter via CapMetro
- Homeless Strategy Office (HSO) contracted with vendor to provide shelter to the first 300 people

**HSEM to coordinate surge operations over 300 people**

- Meals for shelters
- Coordinating with Building Services and APD for shelter security
- Coordinating with Animal Services for sheltering service animals
- Distributing supplies to shelter locations (mats and blankets)

# Winter Shelter Plans



## **NEW Mass Care & Shelter Management Division**

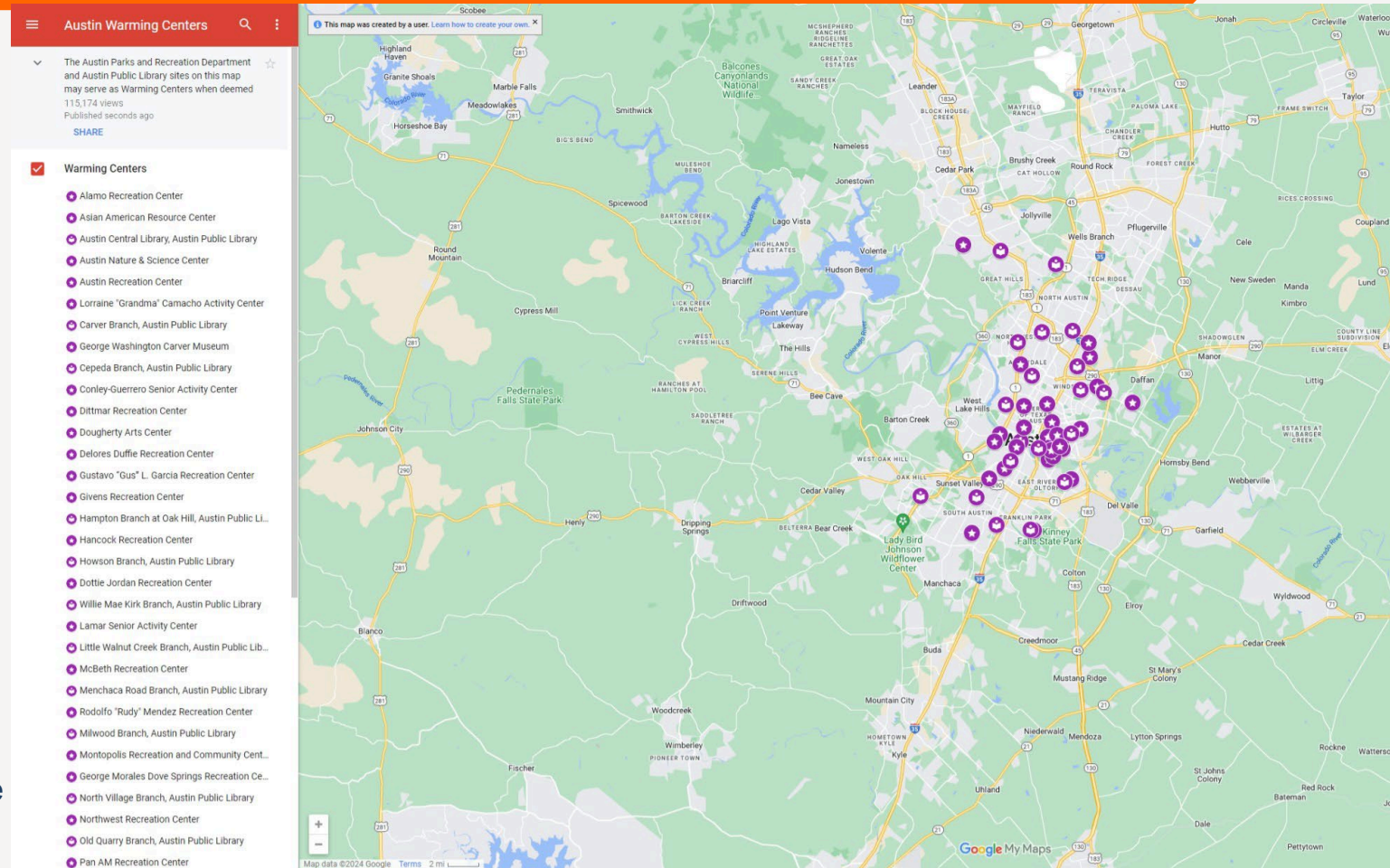
### **Winter 2024-2025 Shelter Strategy**

- Use City-owned facilities
- Utilize City-owned Mission Ready Packages (MRP) which are pre-deployed at 9 locations with 72 hours of supplies
- Utilize reassigned city staff as shelter managers and support staff
- Offer training for shelter managers + emotional intelligence de-escalation training with HSO and NGO partners

# Warming Centers

Warming Centers are available at City Facilities, including Libraries and Parks & Recreation Centers

- Open during normal hours of operation all winter
- Locations and hours kept up to date in real time @ [austintexas.gov/alerts](https://austintexas.gov/alerts) via Warming Center Map
- Information available in 14 languages
- Open to Service Animals
  - People with pets can request warming truck from Warming Center staff
  - Animal Services will provide truck, if available



# Emergency Public Information Resources



## Early Warning & Response

- [WarnCentralTexas.org](http://WarnCentralTexas.org)
- **Accessible Hazard Alert System (AHAS)** for emergency alerts in American Sign Language, English voice, and text for people who are Deaf, hard of hearing, Blind, or Deaf and Blind
- [austintexas.gov/alerts](http://austintexas.gov/alerts) for information is translated in 14 languages

## Preparedness

- [ReadyCentralTexas.org](http://ReadyCentralTexas.org) digital preparedness hub
- **Ready Central Texas app** available for free in the Apple Store for iPhone, and in the Google Play store for Android.
- **Ready Together** two-hour preparedness classroom training offered quarterly
- **Emergency Preparedness Pop Up Events** offered monthly
- **Get Ready Central Texas Emergency Preparedness Fair** offered annually
- **Winter Weather Supply Drives** offered seasonally
- **Outreach & Engagement** for people ages 5 to 95 + Vulnerable Populations
- **Winter Weather Preparedness Press Conference** with Mayor + Judge

# Communications Protocols for City Council

## News Flash

- Email sent to Mayor, Council, City Manager's Office and NET PIO providing significant event or incident updates in a developing incident
- Drafted and disseminated by HSEM PIO and CPIO





# City Council Resource: Liaison Officer



All ACM Advisors trained across the enterprise.

Formal role in Incident Command System

## **Liaison Officer Responsibilities:**

- Share information from EOC with Elected Officials
- Get information from Elected Officials and share with EOC
- Coordinate with Department Operation Center (DOC) Liaisons
- Serve as City Council Point of Contact during a disaster
- Streamline delivering accurate, prompt communication to and from City Council

**Thank you!**