



Tom Barrett
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Extreme Cold Temperatures Predicted for Milwaukee Area

City and health officials remind residents to take precautions as temperatures drop

MILWAUKEE – Mayor Tom Barrett and the City of Milwaukee Health Department (MHD) are reminding all residents to take precautions as bitterly cold temperatures move into the area Wednesday evening.

The National Weather Service (NWS) has issued a wind chill advisory for the area, stating that cold temperatures and brisk winds may result in wind chills that could reach 25 below zero. **The advisory begins 6 p.m. on Wednesday, Dec. 11, through 6 a.m. on Thursday, Dec. 12.**

“As extreme cold temperatures move into the area, I urge all residents to take the threat seriously,” said Mayor Tom Barrett. “Taking simple precautions can prevent injuries and save lives.”

“Extreme cold temperatures can create serious health hazards,” said Commissioner of Health Bevan K. Baker. “Whether heading outdoors or remaining indoors, we urge all area residents to follow our safety tips.”

To safely beat the cold, the MHD offers these cold-weather tips:

- Minimize the time spent outdoors. If you do head outside, let someone know where you are going and when you expect to return.
- Wear appropriate outdoor clothing and dress in layers. Ensure that exposed skin is covered, including your fingers, nose, and ears.
- Be aware of the symptoms of both frostbite and hypothermia. Frostbite can occur within minutes when unprotected skin is exposed to very cold temperatures, causing the affected area to appear white or grayish-yellow in color and feel firm or waxy. Hypothermia is life-threatening, and occurs when the body temperature drops too low, causing shivering, drowsiness, clumsiness and confusion. Both require immediate medical treatment.
- Do not touch metal surfaces with uncovered hands. Flesh can freeze instantly to a surface.
- Heat your home with devices approved for indoor use, and ensure they are properly vented to prevent carbon monoxide poisoning or fires. Never use wood-burning or coal-burning grills, camp stoves, or other outdoor devices indoors.
- If you have pets, bring them inside and ensure trips outside are brief.

During cold weather, check on family members and neighbors who may be at risk for cold-weather illness or injuries, especially young children, the elderly, and those with chronic illness.

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Think Health. Act Now!

