



**Tulare County  
Health & Human Services Agency**

John Davis, Health & Human Services Agency Director

**PRESS  
RELEASE**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**PREPAREDNESS FOR EXTREME COLD CONDITIONS  
AND TULARE COUNTY PLAN**

Tulare County health officials in coordination with city representatives and the Red Cross are advising how residents can prepare themselves, their family members, and their animals for the possible effects of the inclement weather and providing information for shelter and care. Office of Emergency Services (OES) Program Manager Doug Kennedy indicated "public safety is our first priority".

The National Weather Service has reported to OES that on Friday and into the weekend, temperatures will drop, reaching the high teens to low 20s in most areas at night, and continued daytime lows in the mid 40s. To protect yourself in extremely cold weather wear several layers of clothing, travel with caution and be alert for the symptoms of exposure. Monitor family members and those around you who are at greatest risk from exposure, such as seniors, young children and people with underlying illnesses or chronic conditions.

A 24 hour hotline will be available for information on shelter and care arrangements in the county. Residents can call 800-320-1616 to get information on available warming centers in the area, utility assistance, and cold weather measures and precautions. At this time the City of Visalia anticipates additional bed capacity at the Visalia Rescue Mission at 322 NE 1<sup>st</sup>. The Porterville Rescue Mission will be able to accommodate 50 additional individuals in the cafeteria for coffee and a warm environment if freezing temperatures occur. It is located at 30 S. A St. The City of Lindsay has advised those requiring shelter should report to the Lindsay Police Department located at 185 N. Gale Hill. The City of Tulare is considering the opening of a shelter site and will have a decision later today.

Individuals should be aware of the C-SET energy assistance program available at no cost for eligible applicants/households living in Tulare County. Please contact them at 741-4658 for further information and eligibility requirements. Officials want to urge residents to maintain a heated environment inside your home of at least 68 degrees during the day and evening; 63 degrees at night.

The importance of protecting your animals during extreme cold conditions would like to be stressed. Please keep your animals inside. If they need to remain outside please put them in a garage or laundry room. Their shelters should be moved closer to the house and extra blankets should be provided.

Information is also available at [www.tularehhsa.org](http://www.tularehhsa.org) for links on freezing temperature precautions and county resources.