



UK Health
Security
Agency



Cold Weather Plan for England: Action cards for Cold Weather Alert Service

Voluntary and community sector

Level

0 Year-round planning

- engage with local statutory partners to agree how the voluntary and community sector can contribute to the local community resilience arrangements.
- develop a community emergency plan to:
 - identify and support vulnerable neighbours in the winter
 - assess the impact severe weather might have on the provision and use of usual community venues
 - ensure that pavements and public walkways are cleared of snow and ice in the local community
 - agree support, resources and training to maximise effective use of volunteers
 - support recruitment of volunteers
 - agree mechanisms for distributing food, fuel, emergency heating, health, social care and other provision to vulnerable people
 - review emergency housing and hostel provision
 - agree arrangements with other community groups to maximise contact with vulnerable people
 - identify available services for vulnerable people and agree signposting arrangements with providers

Level

1 Winter preparedness and action programme 1 November to 31 March

- test the community emergency plan to ensure that roles and responsibilities and actions are clear
- set up rotas of willing volunteers to keep the community safe during inclement weather and to check on vulnerable people and neighbours
- support the provision of appropriate advice about the health risks of cold weather/cold housing especially with vulnerable people
- ensure that there is a 'business' continuity plan for severe winter weather to ensure support can continue to be given to vulnerable people
- actively engage vulnerable people known to be at risk and check on welfare regularly and support them to seek help if necessary

Level

2

Severe winter weather is forecast – Alert and readiness

Mean temperature of 2°C and/or widespread ice and heavy snow are predicted within 48 hours, with 60% confidence

- activate the community emergency plan
- activate the 'business' continuity plan
- continue to actively engage vulnerable people known to be at risk and check on welfare regularly and support them to seek help if necessary
- stay tuned to the weather

Level

3

Response to severe winter weather – Severe weather action

Severe winter weather is now occurring: mean temperature of 2°C or less and/or widespread ice and heavy snow

- implement community emergency plan
- contact vulnerable people to ensure they are safe and well and support them to seek help if necessary
- ensure volunteers are appropriately supported

Level

4

Major incident – Emergency response

Central government will declare a Level 4 alert in the event of severe or prolonged cold weather affecting sectors other than health

- continue actions as per Level 3 unless advised to the contrary
- implementation of national emergency response arrangements by central government
- follow key public health and weather alert messages as broadcast on the media