**Weather Emergency Policy**

This policy will need to be adapted by each community, based upon resources available during extreme weather conditions. Law regarding involuntary psychiatric commitments, may also need to be consulted.

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| **Weather Emergency Policy** | |
| **POLICY** | The Outreach Coordinating Entity (OCE) will enact emergency operations for extreme cold or hot weather or other weather anomaly (e.g. hurricanes). |
| **PURPOSE** | To prepare for preserving the lives of individuals experiencing homelessness in extreme weather conditions. |
| **PROCEDURE** | Cold Weather Alert During extremely bitter cold conditions (when the temperature, wind chill, and precipitation combine to put the temperature below 10 degrees Fahrenheit), the following actions will be triggered:   1. Outreach hours are extended from 6 PM to midnight or for however long it takes the teams to cover the geographic areas assigned to them. 2. The first floor of the [local agencies] and police stations will be open to homeless persons. 3. Outreach teams and the police will be allowed to implement any Court Ordered Transportation to Shelter or other community policy by alerting appropriate authorities. 4. Participating shelters will allow consumers to remain indoors until a designated time the following day or at the end of the emergency.   The community will notify the shelters when the weather emergency has been lifted. Hot Weather Alert Upon notification by the National Weather Service, Public Health will declare a heat warning. Once the heat warning is declared, the Outreach Coordinating Agency will declare a Code Red to initiate emergency operations. Emergency operations may also be enacted when the temperature is forecast to exceed 95 degrees Fahrenheit. Severe Weather Alert Code Gray was developed as a response to weather conditions where homeless clients on the street were at risk, but the conditions for Code Red and Code Blue were not met.  Code Gray is declared when one or more of two conditions were met.   * Heavy Wind or Heavy Rain. Hurricane or near hurricane status would qualify but is not required. * Frozen precipitation above 32 degrees Fahrenheit   Code Gray is determined by the OCE Director and local community leads. In addition to Radio/TV/Computer forecasts, the National Weather Services may be consulted if necessary. When the conditions for Code Gray are met, shelters and reception sites cannot discharge or refuse to accept clients. It does not open police stations or add Outreach teams/hours as Code Blue does; and there is no widespread community notification through Communications as in Code Red and Code Blue. |