

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

January 2, 2023

10:40 a.m.

**DOUGLAS COUNTY ACTIVATES ADDITIONAL WARMING AREA**



**Minden, NV** - Douglas County is activating an additional emergency warming area for Douglas County residents on January 2, 2023, near the Topaz Ranch Estates at the East Fork Fire Protection District Station 4 in Wellington. The address is 1476 Albite Road, Wellington, NV 89444. The warming area will remain open until further notice and will provide water, coffee, and charging capabilities. Another round of storms is predicted to hit the region later in the week. Some residents remain without power and freezing temperatures are expected. To contact the warming area, please call 775-783-6497.

For citizens planning to stay in the warming area, a Douglas County identification is required for entry. Additionally, plan to bring clothing, medication, toiletries, baby food, formula, diapers, etc. Douglas County Animal Control is unable to take any additional animals for sheltering at this time due to power outage and water issues. We are working on another solution as we head into the evening hours and will continue to provide updates as we know your pets are important.

Residents who have heat are asked to shelter in place. Check in on family, friends and neighbors, especially if they are elderly or if you think their power might be out. Those without power should consider staying with friends or family if the warming center is not an option.

Douglas County has received reports of residents experiencing frozen pipes. The Red Cross offers these tips to prevent pipes from freezing:

- Keep garage doors closed if there are water supply lines in the garage.
- Open kitchen and bathroom cabinet doors to allow warmer air to circulate around the plumbing. Be sure to move any harmful cleaners and household chemicals up out of the reach of children.
- When the weather is very cold outside, let the cold water drip from the faucet served by exposed pipes. Running water through the pipe - even at a trickle - helps prevent pipes from freezing.

- Seal leaks that allow cold air inside near where pipes are located. Look for air leaks around electrical wiring, dryer vents, and pipes, and use caulk or insulation to keep the cold out. With severe cold, even a tiny opening can let in enough cold air to cause a pipe to freeze.
- Keep the thermostat set to the same temperature both during the day and at night. By temporarily suspending the use of lower nighttime temperatures, you may incur a higher heating bill, but you can prevent a much more costly repair job if pipes freeze and burst.
- If you will be going away during cold weather, leave the heat on in your home, set to a temperature no lower than 55 degrees.
- Open cabinet doors to allow heat to get to un-insulated pipes under sinks and appliances near exterior walls.
- Keep any garage doors closed if there are water pipes or supply lines in the garage. If attached to home, consider opening the door to the garage to allow home heat to enter the garage. DO NOT use kerosene or other fuel fed heating devices in the garage to heat it.

### **If Your Pipes Do Freeze:**

- If you turn on your faucets and nothing comes out, leave the faucets turned on and call a plumber.
- If your house is flooding, turn off the water valve and immediately call 911.
- You may be able to thaw a frozen pipe with the warm air from a hair dryer. Start by warming the pipe as close to the faucet as possible, working toward the coldest section of pipe. DO NOT use a blow torch or any other open flame to try and thaw out potentially frozen pipes.
- Make sure everyone in your family knows where the water shutoff valve is and how to open and close it. Likely places for the water turn-off valve include internal pipes running against exterior walls or where water service enters a home through the foundation.

For more information on how Douglas County is responding to current impacts related to the storm visit our [webpage](#).