

Severe Weather Services

Frequently Asked Questions



Each year, Multnomah County experiences episodes of inclement weather referred to as Severe Weather. The conditions pose an immediate danger to the life and health of unsheltered people, especially those living with medical or mental health conditions that may make them more vulnerable in extreme weather. Last winter was the harshest winter in recent memory. We had almost 30 days of severe weather and 6 exposure-related fatalities.

During Severe Weather accessible, life-saving services are organized across our community to ensure that anyone sleeping unsheltered has access to safe, dry daytime and overnight shelter. Transition Projects opens and operates Severe Weather Shelter services (SWS) in Multnomah County at night and expanded day services during these events.

1. What are the weather triggers for Severe Weather?

- Forecasted temperature 25° F or below
- Forecasted snow accumulations of 1.0 inch or more sticking to the ground in most locations.
- Forecasted temperature at or below 32° F (0° C) with driving rain of 1.0 inch or more overnight
- Other factors, such as extreme temperature fluctuation or wind chill, may influence decision to open warming centers.

2. What overnight shelters are available to unsheltered adults and couples?

- Day Center at Bud Clark Commons: 650 NW Irving, Portland
 - Overnight shelter for 125 women, men, and couples
 - Open from 8:30pm – 7:00am
 - Animals, bikes, carts welcome
- Imago Dei Community Center: 1302 SE Ankeny, Portland
 - Overnight shelter for 100 women, men, and couples
 - Open from 8:30pm – 7:00am
 - Animals, bikes, carts welcome
- Shelter is easy-to-access by walking up – no reservation is needed
- No alcohol/drug use permitted onsite

How can I get involved?

3. Volunteer!

- We need people to help us staff the shelters and programs, and provide these life-saving services.
- **Shifts:**
 - 7pm - 12am
 - 12am – 6am
 - 5:30am – 8:30am
- We are actively seeking volunteers to help staff severe weather services. Volunteers will work alongside Transition Projects staff.
 - **Volunteers must complete a background check and attend a mandatory severe weather services training.**
 - For more questions or to sign-up, please contact Tamara Chacon: 503.280.4741 or tamara@tprojects.org

4. Training:

- Basic training for Severe Weather services is available, and required for volunteers
- Sign-up here: <https://tinyurl.com/TrainSWS>

5. Who do I contact with questions?

- Gabriel Court Emergency Operations Manager
 - **Phone:** 503.750.1811 / **Email:** gabriel.court@tprojects.org
- Stacy Borke, Senior Director of Programs / **Email:** stacy@tprojects.org