



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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COLD WEATHER EMERGENCY SHELTER TO OPEN

Three sites activated due to forecasted overnight temperatures

To protect the unhoused from cold overnight temperatures, temporary protective overnight shelters will open beginning Friday, Jan. 5. The shelter system is the result of a collaboration between the County of Santa Cruz, City of Santa Cruz, and City of Watsonville.

Cold weather shelters will operate until the morning of Tuesday, Jan. 9, when weather forecasts will be reassessed. The sites will be operated by The Free Guide. Please note the specific days of operation for each site. *Capacity is limited.*

The following sites will provide shelter:

Depot Park	Veterans Memorial Hall	Veterans Memorial Hall
119 Center Street	846 Front Street	215 East Beach Street
Santa Cruz	Santa Cruz	Watsonville
Jan. 5-8	Jan. 7-8	Jan. 5-8

All shelters will operate from 8 p.m. to 8 a.m. Lineup begins at 7 p.m. Beds will be offered on a first-come, first-served basis, with preference for people with disabilities and those experiencing significant health/safety risk sleeping outdoors.

Guests will be provided with cots, blankets, and ready-to-eat meals. Pets are allowed if they are leashed and can be kept under voice control. No aggressive animals will be allowed at shelter sites.

Food will be available once intakes and bed assignments are completed. Belongings must fit in small storage areas near bed assignments.

Those who are unable to access shelter are advised to sleep in tents or cars if possible, and to use multiple layers of clothing and/or sleeping bags and blankets.