



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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SEVERE WEATHER EMERGENCY SHELTER TO OPEN

To protect the unhoused from a severe weather system and possible flooding, temporary protective severe weather shelters will open beginning Wednesday, Jan. 31, at 1 p.m. The shelter system is the result of a collaboration between the County of Santa Cruz, City of Santa Cruz, and City of Watsonville.

Severe weather shelters will operate as 24-hour shelters and be open until noon on Friday, Feb. 2, when shelter operations will be reassessed. The sites will be operated by The Free Guide. *Capacity is limited.*

The following sites will provide shelter:

Depot Park

119 Center Street
Santa Cruz

Veterans Memorial Hall

215 East Beach Street
Watsonville

Line up at both shelters will begin at noon on January 31. 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.