



# Shelby County Office of Preparedness

## News Update Emergency Operations Center

**January 6, 2010**

### **Emergency Warming Center Opens In Preparation of Winter Weather**

A tent to accommodate more than 100 people will be opened in downtown Memphis later tonight in preparation for snow and bitterly cold temperatures predicted for the Memphis and Shelby County area.

Shelby County Mayor Joe Ford and officials at the Shelby County Office of Preparedness say the warming center in downtown Memphis will help homeless people who will be particularly vulnerable during what could be record-breaking cold temperatures.

**“Mayor Ford wanted to open the warming center for those who have yet to seek shelter at the Memphis Union Mission or other agencies for the homeless,”** said Bob Nations, Director of the Shelby County Office of Preparedness.

The tent will be set up on a vacant lot at the corner of Poplar and Orleans owned by Shelby County Government. The warming center will be heated, have portable lights and restrooms. Sheriff’s Deputies will provide security. The center will remain open through the first of next week.

Leaders of both Shelby County and Memphis governments are prepared for tonight’s expected snowfall and extremely cold temperatures. Both Mayor Ford and City of Memphis Mayor A C Wharton say their division directors have reviewed winter emergency plans and are prepared to open shelters should power outages occur.

The staff at the Shelby County Office of Preparedness is in constant contact with the National Weather Service. Representatives of city and county bureaus will gather at the Emergency Operations Center early tomorrow morning to assess any problems caused by the weather.

(More)

**Shelby County Office of Preparedness HLS/EMA  
HLS -1075 Mullins Station Rd., Memphis, TN 38134 (901) 379-7094  
EMA – 2668 Avery Ave., Memphis, TN 38112 (901) 515-2525  
[www.staysafemidsouth.us](http://www.staysafemidsouth.us)**



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The winter emergency plan involves sixteen areas of interest during a crisis: Transportation, Human Services, Health and Medical, Infrastructure, Information Planning, Resource Support, Urban Search and Rescue, Food, Law Enforcement, Recovery, Communications, Firefighting, Hazardous Materials, Energy, Donated Goods and Care of Animals.

With bitter cold temperatures and possible gusty winds during the next couple of days, citizens need to check often on loved ones, especially those who are elderly, disabled and live alone.

The Memphis Union Mission at 383 Poplar Avenue is taking in homeless men at no charge and homeless women are being housed free at the Salvation Army at 696 Jackson Avenue.

For more information about services available, contact the Shelby County Office of Preparedness Emergency Operations Center at **(901) 515-2525**.

**(End of Release)**

The Shelby County Office of Preparedness provides administrative assistance to address the unique planning, equipment, training, and exercise needs of Shelby County and the Memphis, TN Urban Area Security Initiative region. The Office of Preparedness is to assist the partnering jurisdictions in building an enhanced and sustainable capacity to prevent, protect, respond to and recover from all-hazards threats. These threats and eventualities can be natural or man-made.

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