



## **Sandwich IL Emergency Management Agency**

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### ***Warming/Cooling Center Guidelines***

#### Assumptions:

Warming and Cooling Centers are temporary, short-term areas of refuge from extreme heat and extreme cold. The City will utilize existing public facilities and partner with other entities to extend availability as needed. The conditions under which a center will be opened will vary dependent upon predicted temperature extremes, along with aggravating factors such as wind chill in the winter and high heat indices in the summer.

#### Concept of Operations:

The City customarily designates the City Hall Annex as an area of refuge for both heat and cold emergencies. Additionally, the Fox Valley Family YMCA offers their West Branch facility for the purpose. Sandwich EMA and the management of the West Branch have agreed to communicate during these events in order to better coordinate efforts.

Rather than set hard conditions under which shelters will be available, the City will declare such emergencies on a case by case basis. Sandwich EMA will be the lead for these determinations, assisted by other city officials as needed. Announcements will be made on the City website and social media, the City's low power AM radio station, and other area media. The 911 PSAPs in Sycamore and Yorkville will also be advised of the situation, so that citizens calling the police and fire departments will get correct information. Patrons would need to provide their own transport to the facilities. Patrons would need to bring their own comfort items geared towards a short stay.

#### Issues:

West Branch facilities are only open and available during their normal operating hours. The City Hall Annex is theoretically available 24/7. Supervision and staffing would need to be arranged for out-of-business hours. Planning/discussions for that supervision is ongoing. (We seek partnerships with service clubs and faith-based organizations for the purpose.)

#### Summations:

Warming and Cooling Centers are short-term solutions for temperature extremes. If patrons have ongoing issues relating to basic living issues, SEMA and city officials will contact the appropriate County Health Department for additional assistance. These guidelines are left deliberately free-form so as to allow needed improvisation.

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