

CIRCULAR



DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Title	Cold Weather Reminder – 2022-2023 Hypothermia Season
Number	CIR-22-15
Effective Date	October 28, 2022
Expiration Date	May 1, 2023
Related to:	GO-OPS-308.04 (Interacting with Mental Health Consumers) GO-OPS-308.14 (Interactions with Homeless Persons)

The purpose of this circular is to remind members that the 2022-2023 Hypothermia Season begins on November 1, 2022, and ends on March 31, 2023.

Hypothermia alerts will be called when the NWS published forecast indicates that the actual or forecasted temperature, including wind chill, is 32 degrees Fahrenheit or below. DHS will also call an overnight hypothermia alert when the temperature is forecasted to be 40 degrees Fahrenheit or below and the predicted chance of precipitation is 50% or greater.

Members shall be aware of homeless persons and other individuals who may be suffering from or are at risk of hypothermia.

- If emergency medical assistance is required, members shall request the services of an ambulance, remain on scene until the ambulance arrives, prepare the necessary reports, and make the required notifications.
- If the person does not require emergency medical assistance, members shall determine if the person is willing to seek shelter; and request the Office of Unified Communications (OUC) to contact the Hypothermia Hotline. (Note: The Hypothermia Hotline number is 202-399-7093; or people may call 311 for assistance). Members shall inform OUC there is no need for medical assistance; provide a description of the person, along with his or her name, if available, and location; and not remain on the scene unless circumstances require the presence of the member.

In assessing whether someone is at risk of hypothermia, members shall look for such factors as being out in the cold without proper clothing or other covering, and whether someone's clothing is wet, which can contribute to hypothermia. Members shall assess individuals refusing to move to a warm and safe setting for potential involuntary transportation [i.e., via FD-12 Form (Application of Emergency Hospitalization by a Physician or Psychologist of the Person, Officer or Agent of D.C. Department of Human Service or an Officer to Make Arrests)] to CPEP or another mental health facility for emergency physical and mental health evaluation.

In accordance with GO-OPS-308.04 (Interacting with Mental Health Consumers), members shall assist the Department of Behavioral Health with transportation of individuals who have been determined to need a mental health evaluation to CPEP or other facilities. Members encountering residents on a call for service who do not have heat on in their residence during this season or during a cold emergency alert, shall contact the HSEMA Command Center at 202-727-6161, and report the location where assistance may be needed.

District commanders shall ensure their members give special attention to areas surrounding non-shelter intervention sites (e.g., hypothermia shelters, warming centers).

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert J. Contee III", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Robert J. Contee III
Chief of Police

RJC:KDO:MOC:KDB