



## Press Release

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### DCPSC Urges District Residents to Prepare and Stay Safe During Arctic Front This Weekend

(WASHINGTON, D.C.) – As an arctic front approaches, dangerously cold temperatures are expected to impact the District of Columbia this weekend, January 18-20, 2025, and upcoming week. Local residents and visitors are urged to take precautions to protect themselves, their families, and their homes from the potentially hazardous cold.

The cold front will bring record low freezing temperatures. To help minimize risks, the following tips are recommended for District residents:

- **Conserve energy:** Set thermostats between 68°F to 70°F and use blinds or curtains to help retain heat. Seal drafts around windows and doors to keep warmth in. If using space heaters, ensure they are placed at least three feet away from anything flammable and never leave them unattended.
- **Check on vulnerable neighbors:** With the extreme cold, residents are encouraged to check on elderly or vulnerable neighbors and ensure they have access to warm shelter and resources.
- **Warming centers:** The District has designated warming centers available for residents who may need shelter from the extreme cold. A full list of warming centers can be found on the D.C. government website [www.dc.gov](http://www.dc.gov), or by calling 311.
- **Power outage assistance:** If you experience a power outage, immediately contact your utility provider's emergency hotline. In the District, Pepco customers can reach the outage hotline at 1-877-737-2662 or text "OUT" to 48710. Due to high demand, there may be delays in power restoration, so please be patient and stay informed. Be prepared by keeping flashlights, extra batteries, and blankets on hand. Unplug sensitive electronics to protect them from power surges when electricity is restored.
- **Sign up for AlertDC:** Residents are encouraged to sign up for AlertDC, the city's emergency notification system, to receive real-time alerts about weather updates, power outages, and other critical information. Sign up at [www.alertdc.dc.gov](http://www.alertdc.dc.gov).

District residents can find additional tips and resources through the Commission's [Winter Ready DC campaign](#). The Commission's Office of Consumer Services assists District residents with any problems,

issues, or concerns they may have with a utility company or competitive provider. The fastest way to receive assistance is by [filing a complaint](#) or by calling (202) 626-5120.

Stay safe and take the necessary steps to protect yourself and your property during this extreme weather.

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